Shion no Ou

The Flowers of Hard Blood.

Translation:SEKI×Editor:CARA×
Scanning/QC:DRUID

Story : KATORI MASARU×Art : ANDO JIRO

AFTERNOON KC

2

Character Introductions

Yasuoka Shion

Joryuu Kishi* Lost the ability to speak at a very young age when her parents were murdered She converses completely through writing Now at her first pro tournament she has collapsed before her match Currently in her first year of middle school

*T/L Note Female professional shogi player

Saitou Ayumi

To help his family he faked his gender and aimed to be a Joryuu Kishi In a training league match he defeated Shion and with no losses became a pro High school dropout

Nikaidou Saori

A Joryuu 1-Dan* As a kishi she is Shion and Ayumi's senpai A sister-apprentice of the current Meijin* Hani In her third year of high school

*T/L Note The lowest grade dan. Still higher than Ayumi and Shion however
*T/L Note Meijin is a prestigious title earned by winning a very high-level tournament

Seventh Move

Sound of the Pieces

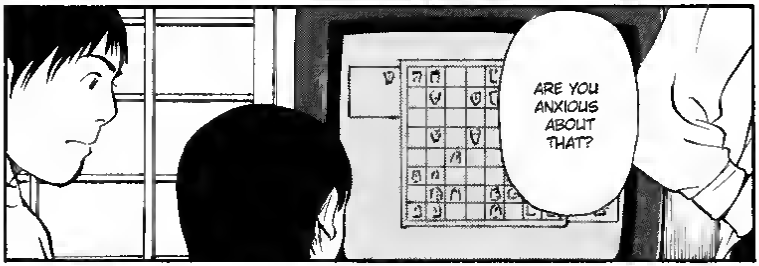
GOOD MORNING.
WELL GOOD MORNING, HISATANI-KUN.
HUH? WHERE'S SHION-CHAN?

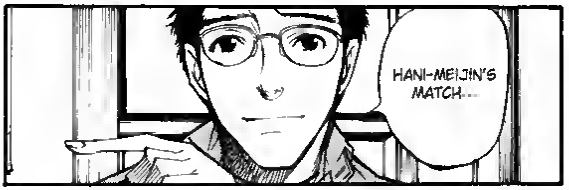
I guess I'm just Shion's lackey
I'M ALONE TODAY.
OH...
WELL THAT'S A PITY.
SHION-CHAN'S NOT WITH YOU?
THAT'S RIGHT, SINCE SHE HAS A MATCH TOMORROW
HEY HEY! IS IT TRUE THAT SHION-CHAN ISN'T HERE!? I EVEN BOUGHT A CAKE!
YES, IT'S TRUE
HISATANI-SAN
LIKE I ALREADY SAID, SHION ISN'T HERE!

NIKAIDOU-SAN!
HELLO.
HUH?
THAT'S RIGHT, SHION-CHAN HAS A MATCH TOMORROW AFTER ALL
YOU HAVE ONE AS WELL DON'T YOU?
ME?
WITH ME... AH!
IF I STAY HOME I JUST GET NERVOUS-
I SEE.
I KNOW!

SINCE YOU'RE HERE, CAN I LEARN FROM YOU IN AN EVEN GAME?
IT'S A SECRET, BUT EVEN SENSEI'S LOST TO HER IN EVEN GAMES BEFORE.
WOW!
IS THAT SO?
SURE.
I DO EVEN GAMES WITH SHION SOMETIMES, TOO.
So her semi-final opponent isn't even in her sight eh...
I'LL HAVE TO BE CAREFUL IF SHE MAKES IT TO THE FINALS.

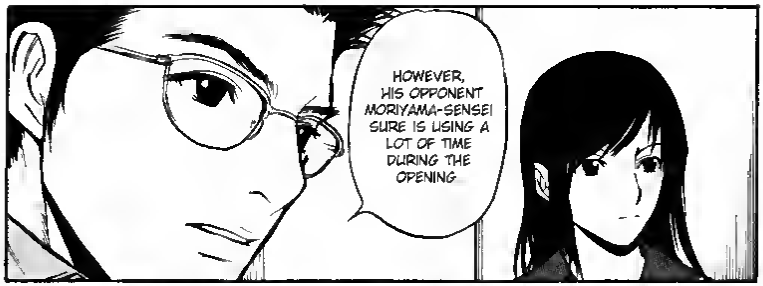
AH, ONEGAISHI-MASU.
WELL THEN, YOROSHIKU ONEGAISHI-MASU.

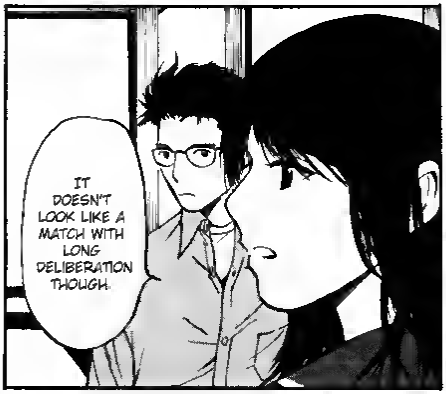

ARE YOU ANXIOUS ABOUT THAT?


HANI-MEIJIN'S MATCH...

EH?

IT'S FINE, I CAME HERE TO WATCH IT MYSELF.
I-I'M SO SORRY, AND YOU'RE TEACHING ME AND ALL.


HOWEVER, HIS OPPONENT MORIYAMA-SENSEI SURE IS USING A LOT OF TIME DURING THE OPENING


IT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE A MATCH WITH LONG DELIBERATION THOUGH.

IT'S BEEN THREE HOURS SINCE IT STARTED, AND THERE'VE ONLY BEEN 10 MOVES OR SO

THAT'S NOT POSSIBLE IN JORYUU MATCHES, SINCE WE ONLY HAVE TWO HOURS
SO WE ALWAYS HAVE TO FIGHT WITH ALL OUR STRENGTH

USING AS MUCH OF HIS TIME AS POSSIBLE AND WAITING FOR HANI-MEIJIN'S CONCENTRATION TO BREAK..
IT'S PROBABLY STRATEGY

YO.
HANI-MEIJIN.
OH? WHAT A RARITY, FOR SAORI TO BE PLAYING HERE.
THAT'S GOOD, IS THE OJOU-CHAN* FEELING BETTER TODAY?
SHION SAID SHE HAD A LOT OF FUN AS WELL.
THANK YOU FOR TREATING US THE OTHER DAY.
*T/L NOTE USED TO REFER TO DAUGHTERS OF WEALTHY FAMILIES A BIT OF AN EXAGGERATION MOST LIKELY IN SHION'S CASE
MEIJIN, CAN I HAVE A PHOTO?
HMM?
THAT'S A PITY.
I WOULD HAVE TREATED HER TO SOME GOOD FOOD AGAIN
SHE'S NOT HERE TODAY?
HUH?
YES, TODAY'S A BIT...

NOT JUST ME, WE NEED SOME YOUTH IN THE PHOTO AS WELL
EH, WAIT... HANI-NII
SPEAKING OF YASUOKA-SENSEI, WHERE IS SHION-SAN?
OOH
HE'S STILL JUST A 3-DAN, BUT HE'S THE PRIZED DISCIPLE OF YASUOKA, SO HIS SHOUGI'S VERY GOOD
EH, I'M NOT THAT...
OH, YOU WERE BEING TAUGHT BY HISATANI-KUN?

IS THAT SO...
NO! THAT'S NOT IT AT ALL.
IS SHE ILL?
SHE'S RESTING A BIT TODAY.
THE MEIJIN, THE FUTURE JORYUU MEIJIN,
AND A FUTURE MEIJIN CANDIDATE...
SORRY YOU HAVE TO INCLUDE ME
THEN, SINCE YOU'RE ALL GATHERED, HOW ABOUT THE THREE OF YOU
. I cant tell them.
KASHA!

SFX: KASHA - THE CAMERA SHUTTER

Pashi
SFX: BASHI-THWAK
THAT SHION IS IN A HOSPITAL...
MY MY, YOU EVEN BRING A SHOGI BOARD TO A HOSPITAL.
HMPH!
Pashi
IT'S THE SAME FOR HER
IT'S SOOTHING, TO HEAR THE SOUND OF THE PIECES.
BUT SHION. .
HMPH!
IT'S THE SAME FOR ANY KISHI!
Pashi

.....
...THE DOCTOR SAID THAT HER CT'S AND EEGS DIDN'T SHOW ANY ABNORMALITIES BUT.
THE SHOCK OF HAVING HER FIRST PERIOD IS THE ONLY CAUSE I CAN THINK OF
HEY...
EVEN IF YOU ASK ME.
IS IT THE SHOGI THAT YOU WON WITH?
DO YOU KNOW THIS SHOGI?

IT'S SHION'S SHOGI
THE SHOUGI THAT LOST TO THE GIRL, SAITOU, AT THE FIRST PRO-TEST
SHION LINED IT UP FOR ME BY HERSELF A FEW DAYS BEFORE SHE COLLAPSED
IT WASN'T THAT SHE WAS SAD ABOUT HAVING LOST...
SHE JUST WANTED ME TO SEE.
THAT WAS THE EXPRESSION SHE HAD

IT'S FRESH AND YOUTHFUL, IT HAS INSIGHT AND...
IT'S FILLED WITH POSSIBILITY...
Part
IT'S GOOD SHOGI
MOST LIKELY THOSE TWO WILL NEVER FORGET THAT MATCH.

ALMOST LIKE LOVERS JOINED BY FATE.
HAHA. THAT MIGHT BE TRUE.
IF YOU WANT TO PLAY SHOUGI AGAIN,
SHION... CAN YOU HEAR THIS SOUND?
OPEN YOUR EYES, SHION!!

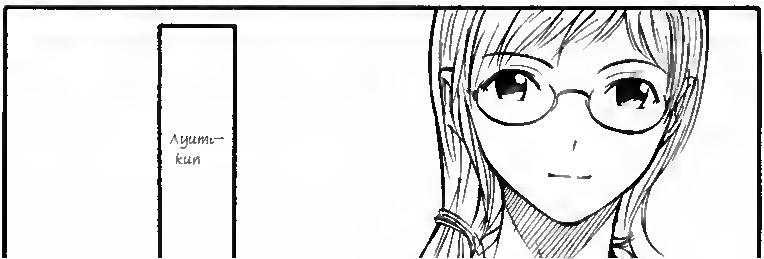
VISITORS ARE ALLOWED UNTIL 8
OK.
SO THE PARENTS LEFT ALREADY
IF I COULD HEAR THE STORY FROM HER, THEN WE MIGHT FINALLY...

SHOGI EH? NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT, IT'S BEEN SO LONG SINCE I'VE PLAYED
Pachi
YOU'RE FIGHTING AS WELL, AREN'T YOU.
Piku...
Pachi
THE SOUND IS REALLY SOMETHING ELSE
BUT WOW, REAL ONES HAVE SUCH A NICE FEEL

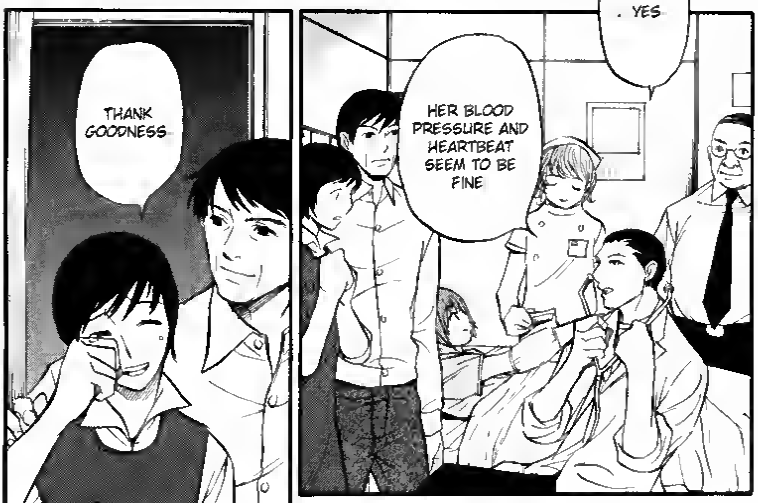
Ah

No way at this rate I'll lose

I need to keep attacking! This is such good shogi, I have to work extra hard!
Isn't... that so?


Ayumu-kun

SOMEONE! NURSE!
DOCTOR!!
SHI-..
SHION-CHAN?

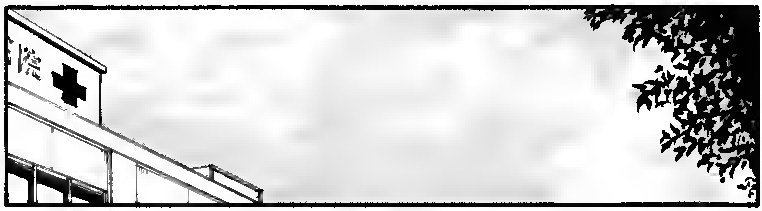

. YES
HER BLOOD PRESSURE AND HEARTBEAT SEEM TO BE FINE
THANK GOODNESS

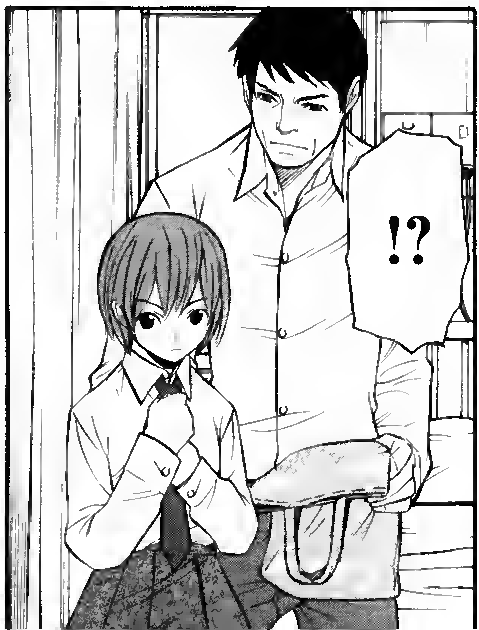
WHY DID HER CONSCIOUSNESS NOT RETURN?
I'm sorry I made everyone worry.
I DON'T KNOW... WITHOUT A MORE DETAILED EXAMINATION I CAN'T REALLY SAY BUT,
THE CONSTANT STRESS SHE'S BEEN UNDER LATELY MAY HAVE SHATTERED THE BALANCE BETWEEN HER MIND AND BODY.
...5 DAYS.
How long was I asleep?
!?

A MATCH? SHION-SAN?
SHE WAS UNCONSCIOUS FOR FIVE DAYS
DEAR!
DOCTOR, SHE HAS A MATCH TOMORROW
.....
DO YOU INTEND TO RISK THAT MUCH FOR SHOGI?
SHION...
!?
BUT TO THIS GIRL IT'S..!

SHION, YOU..
SFX: PUSH FLIPS OPEN CELL
AH, ERI? I'M SORRY ABOUT..
CONNECTING YOU TO THE ANSWERING SERVICE.

.....
IF YOU HAVE BUSINESS AFTER THE TONE




!?

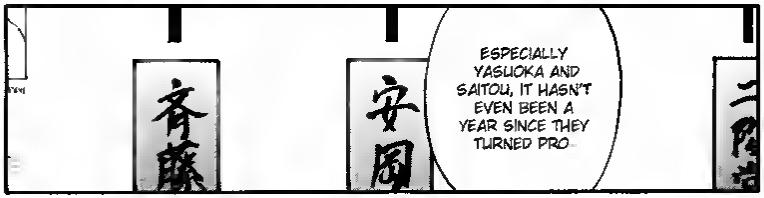
SHION
AFTER YOU'VE EATEN BREAKFAST, CHANGE INTO THIS.

DON'T TELL ME YOU'RE GOING TO THE MATCH?
THE ASSOCIATION
WE'RE GOING TO THE ASSOCI-ATION
WHAT ARE YOU DOING!?
THE DOCTOR SAID HE DOESN'T MIND IF SHE WALKS AROUND THE HOSPITAL
IF SHE PUTS ON A GOWN OVER THAT AND WALKS TO THE FIRST FLOOR, HISATANI IS WAITING WITH A TAXI.
ARE YOU SERIOUS!?
SHION JUST WOKE UP, IF YOU PUSH HER TOO HARD...
IF WE STAY HERE, THEN SHE SHOULDN'T DRAW ANY SUSPICION
SO HURRY, GATHER YOUR THINGS
SFX: FURA-CLOSE TO FAINTING
SHION!!

SHE'S NOT EVEN STEADY ON HER FEET YET.
A MATCH IS SIMPLY TOO MUCH!
SFX: GU PULLS AWAY
Gasp!
!?
SHION ..
HURRY, THERE'S NO TIME TO WASTE
SHION!
I'm going. I decided this on my own after all

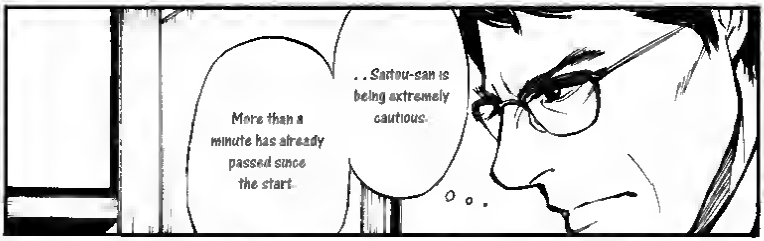
YOU'RE A STRONG ONE, AREN'T YOU..
I UNDER-STAND.
I'LL BE WAITING THEN
TAKE CARE, SHION.

NO MATTER HOW YOU LOOK AT THIS ROSTER, IT'S REALLY A BREATH OF FRESH AIR
IT'S A NEW WAVE FOR THE JORYUU


ESPECIALLY YASUOKA AND SAITOU, IT HASN'T EVEN BEEN A YEAR SINCE THEY TURNED PRO
斉藤
安岡

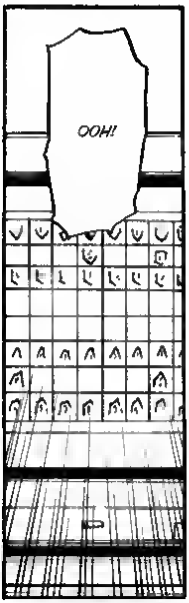
THE FINALS WILL PROBABLY BE ONE OF THEM AGAINST NIKAIDOU-SAN
YES.
YASUOKA SAITOU THEIR SECOND MATCH

*T/L NOTE. FURI GOMA, YOU DECIDE WHO GOES FIRST BY A TOSS OF FIVE PAWNS


. . Saitou-san is being extremely cautious.
More than a minute has already passed since the start.

SFX. GU-CLENCH
Gu
!?
She's smiling?

*T/L NOTE CENTRAL ROOK IN ENGLISH. A TYPE OF FURIBISHA OPENING WHERE THE ROOK IS MOVED IN FRONT OF THE KING.



HISATANI-KUN, SHION-CHAN IS AN IBISHATOU *
WHAT HAPPENS IF THE MATCH TURNS INTO A RANSEN*?
I THINK SHE'LL BE FINE IF SHE PLAYS HER OWN SHOGI.

*T/L NOTE. REFER TO THE CHAPTER 5 MATCH CHECK FOR INFO ON IBISHATOU

*T/L NOTE A WILD VIOLENT TYPE MATCH

SFX. SU- SMOOTH HAND MOVEMENT
Su
!?

UWAH! WHITE ALSO PLAYS A NAKABISHA.
SHION?
WAIT JUST A SECOND HERE.
WHAT'S GOING ON WITH THIS YASUOKA-SAITOU MATCH!?
?
AHH, HISATANI-KUN, THIS IS DIGITAL PHONE'S KOBAYASHI-SAN.
I'M A COMPLETE NEWBIE TO SHOGI.
UM . IS THIS SHOGI DIFFERENT FROM NORMAL?
THE ROOKS ARE ABOVE THE KINGS IN THE MIDDLE OF THE BOARD AND FACING EACH OTHER
THERE IS A TACTIC CALLED "AIBURINAK-ABISHA" THAT FITS BUT...
*T/L NOTE: DOUBLE CENTRAL ROOK

I SEE, LIKE A REFLECTION IN A MIRROR IT'S THE EXACT SAME SHAPE.
IN THE NEXT HAND, SHION MOVED THE PAWN IN FRONT OF THE ROOK, JUST LIKE SAITOU-SAN .
IS IT YASUOKA-SAN'S STRATEGY TO AGITATE HER OPPONENT?
SHION GENERALLY TRIES TO GRADUALLY DRAG THE OPPONENT INTO HER OWN PACE...
THAT'S A DISTINCTIVE CHARACTER-ISTIC OF HER TYPE OF SHOGI.
THAT'S WHY SAITOU-SAN TRIED A SURPRISE ATTACK FROM THE OPENING
AND, YASUOKA-SAN RESPONDED TO THAT...?

YES... ALMOST LIKE SHE'S ENJOYING HERSELF.
Omugaeshi*
MAKING FUN OF ME...
Back.
DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA HOW I FELT WAITING FOR THIS MATCH!

*T/L NOTE: LITERALLY "PARROT RESPONSE" IN OTHER WORDS, REPEATING THE SAME THING BACK LIKE A PARROT

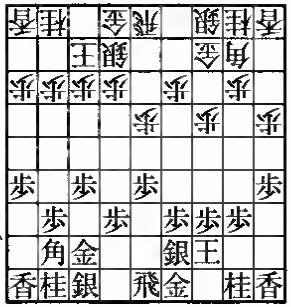
Shion! What's going on?
Was a match too much after all?
THE SAME MOVE AGAIN! DOES SHE INTEND TO KEEP GOING LIKE THIS?
HMM.. MANE SHOGI*.
AS USUAL, A MATCH BETWEEN THOSE TWO
IS NEVER BORING.

*T/L NOTE: MIRROR SHOGI OR IMITATION SHOGI

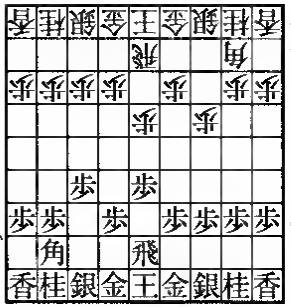
Match Check!

Diagrams and Commentary by Kaion Masaru

(Figure B - Until White R-5a)



(Figure A - Until White R-5b)



The fated rematch with Ayumi: The one who obstructed Shion's professional promotion!

All of the athletes at the Athens Olympics seemed to comment, "I will do my best next time in Beijing." They have a lot of determination, as one would expect. Obviously, someone who gives up because they lost would never even make it to the Olympics. Even if you lose, the spirit to keep challenging makes people stronger.

Now, this time it is Shion and Ayumi's second match. Both players highly anticipated this match, and Ayumi started off with a "Nakabisha" (Central Rook). 'Nakabisha' is where one moves the Rook above his own King, an aggressive opening with the intent of blasting through the center (Fig. A). Sensing Ayumu's aggressive intent, Shion copies and moves her own pieces forward. Because both Black and White have the same form, the match progresses in what is called Mane Shogi form (Fig. B). Because it copies moves like a parrot copies words, it's has been called "Parrot Response." Until the pieces clash, the White player, Shion, merely has to copy the moves, so this strategy has merit in that one does not have to spend much time thinking. However, each time the Black player moves a piece, they step closer to being on the advantageous attacker's side of the battle, so it's not a plan without its flaws.

There are those who think that as long it's used while at an advantage, Mane Shogi should have a more common place in the game, but you still rarely see it in a pro match.

Aside from the respect held to "Kifu" that people pour their blood and soul into, there might also be the matter of pride or possibly worry that there is a definitive weakness to the strategy.

However, why did Shion choose Mane Shogi? That is something to look forward to in the next chapter!

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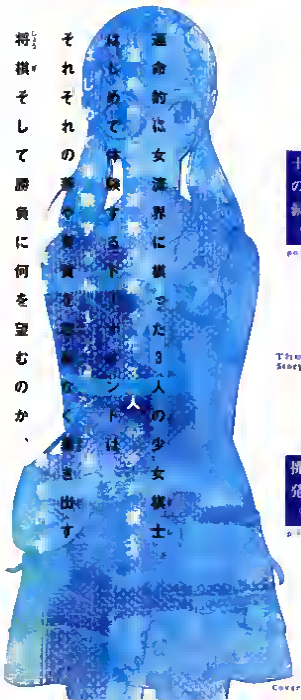
運命的に女流界に現れた3人の少女棋士。
将棋そして勝負に何を望むのか、
息詰まる熱戦を収録した待望の第2巻！



第六手 鬼手。 p041
第七手 駒音。 p091
第八手 十の振。 p141

しおんの王

The Flowers of Hard Blood

Story : KATEKI MASARU / Art : AKKO JIRO
AFTERNOON KC

第十一手 無欲。 p191
第十二手 めざめ。 p241
第十三手 挑発。 p291

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しおんの王
2
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Eighth Move - Ogre's Move

This girl is serious
She's not copying my moves to make a fool out of me or screw around.
Just, that in order to win at this shogi, she's willing to throw away her own moves!?
SFX ZOKU— CHILL DOWN SPINE

Interesting
This is the kind of match I was looking for as well
Ever since that day I've been waiting!
K-4H AND K-6B...
WHICH ONE IS WINNING?
UM... NO ONE YET.
I WONDER IF THIS DEVELOPMENT WILL CONTINUE
AT THIS STAGE, THE MOST IMPORTANT THING IS WHO HAS THE ADVANTAGE PSYCHOLOGICALLY...

IF SOMEONE WERE TO COPY EVERY MOVE YOU PLANNED OUT FOR THIS DAY.
HOW WOULD YOU FEEL?
THEN IT'S PROBABLY SAITOU-SAN.
WHITE GRABS THE INITIATIVE SINCE IT PLAYS FIRST, RIGHT?
I SEE, THAT WOULDN'T BE PLEASANT.
HAHA...
NO.
SHE PROBABLY HAS A REASON.
IN ORDER TO UPSET HER?
SO THEN YASUOKA-SAN IS COPYING SAITOU-SAN'S MOVES.

FOR BEING UNABLE TO PLAY HER OWN SHOGI
THAT'S WHY SHE DECIDED TO USE A STRATEGY LIKE MANESHOGI, WHICH SHE WOULD NORMALLY NEVER USE
IN ORDER TO PREVENT THE OPPONENT FROM PLAYING HER OWN SHOGI AS WELL
...
DO YOU THINK IT'S A COWARDLY WAY OF GOING ABOUT THINGS?

NO, ACTUALLY IT'S EXCITING!
TO LOOK SO ADORABLE,
YET BE THAT OBSESSED WITH THE MATCH
NOT JUST HER.
IT'S THE SAME FOR ALL KISHI
WHAT A LOVELY WORLD.
RIGHT NOW THEY'RE SIMPLY EXCHANGING MOVES
HOWEVER, BOTH ARE INTENTLY WAITING FOR THAT ONE MOVE WHICH WILL KICK THIS MATCH INTO ACTION
HOW-EVER.
IS IT GOING TO KEEP GOING LIKE THIS?
IF SO, IT WON'T BE MUCH OF A MATCH.

SFX NOTE POUNDING HEARTBEAT

THE SAME AS THEN
WHEN I FIRST MET AYUMI-KUN
PLAYING AGAINST AYUMI-KUN IS SURELY DIFFERENT FROM PLAYING ANYONE ELSE
THAT'S WHY I DON'T WANT TO LOSE THIS TIME
NO-
I WANT TO WIN-!!
SFX. PASHIIII!!

IT LOOKS LIKE THE SHAPE OF THE MATCH HAS CHANGED.
WHICH IS WINNING?
N-7G AND G-3C!?
THIS IS GETTING INTERESTING
Saitou-san may have a slight advantage
...
Come!
Come and attack!!
YASUOKA-SAN.
YOU'VE USED 30 MINUTES.
Yes... The match starts here, right? Not a set tactic but the time for both of us to test each other's ability.

Hani-meijin! He purposely came to watch this match?

WHAT A LOOK...
REMINDS ME OF HOW I USED TO BE
Don't interfere!!
HEY.
I'LL BE WATCHING A BIT

WHAT INCREDIBLE CONCENTRATION
RIGHT AFTER SHOWING THAT SMILE,
SHE FACES THE BOARD WITH THIS LOOK
THESE TWO ARE DIFFERENT TYPES,
BUT THEY'LL BECOME STRONG!
P-8e!
BUT, I CAN'T PULL BACK HERE!!
SFX: BACHI
G-3d!?

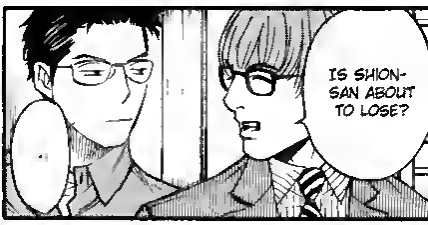
ALMOST LIKE A MAN'S SHOGI.

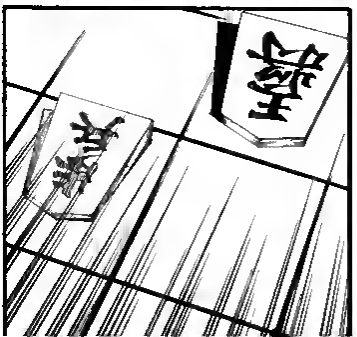
SAITOU-SAN IS PLAYING RATHER FORCEFULLY.
BUT THIS IS INTENSE.
HMM..
AS THINGS STAND, THE ROOK CIRCLES THE EIGHTH FILE ..

R-8D,
P-8C
AND THEN
R-7D.
HOW WILL YASUOKA-SAN RESPOND....

BOTH CHOICES ARE A BIT SCARY.
HMM...

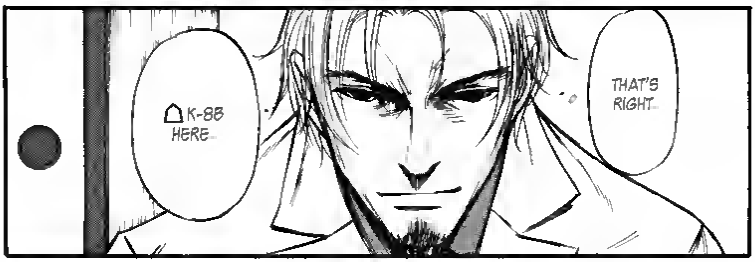
SILVER... OR KNIGHT.


IS SHION-SAN ABOUT TO LOSE?



You've read this far easily right?
Now, show me what you've got from here on out!
IT'S A SUDDEN LOVE LETTER.
HOW WILL YOU REPLY, OJOU-CHAN*
TRANSLATOR'S NOTE: HOW SOMEONE MIGHT ADDRESS THE DAUGHTER OF A WEALTHY FAMILY. THINK, "LITTLE LADY."
R-7d!!
NORMALLY, ONE WOULD PLAY
S-7c
OR
N-7c
BUT THIS GIRL

SFX: SU - SMOOTHLY MOVING THE PIECE
?
K-88!?


K-88 HERE...
THAT'S RIGHT...

!?
IS THERE REALLY SOMETHING WRONG WITH HER...?

NO, IT'S AMAZING THAT SHE CAN PLAY THIS WELL IN THE STATE SHE'S IN...
WHAT A FITY IN THE BEST CIRCUMSTANCES WE'D SEE A DIFFERENT SHOGI...
K-88!
THAT'S RIGHT.
WAH!
THEN SHE'LL PASS YOU BY BEFORE YOU HIT 4-DAN.
IF YOU SAY THINGS LIKE THAT,
THIS IS SHION'S SHOGI!
IF YOU GIVE IT A TRY IT'S NOT BAD...

HOME OR HOSPITAL, I DON'T KNOW BUT,
YOU SHOULD GET HER BACK THERE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
...!?
HOWEVER, DON'T STOP THIS MATCH
I WANT TO WATCH THIS UNTIL THE END

K-8b...
I didn't read it.
That's right... This is the feeling
Not like the gambling shogi I played at all those places
Against this girl I can play with everything that I've got!
Don't forget!

No matter what happens, you have to play for money...
The moment you forget that, the one who will suffer,
Will be you yourself.

I haven't forgotten!
I know it myself!
This is for money!!
But

There's no helping it, you know?

Until I met this girl,
I always had forgotten
Shogi.. is this much fun.

P-9E, THE SAME FOR WHITE, P-9C AND S-7C.
AND NOW R-7E...
SO G-5F?
I THINK THAT'S A BIT DANGER-OUS.
THE ROOK IS A BOTHER, ISN'T IT.
UMM... AT THESE TIMES, HOW MUCH DO PRO KISHI READ AHEAD?
HMM, IN THIS SITUATION, YOU'D READ ABOUT 30 MOVES AHEAD.
AND YOU'D DO THAT FOR SOMETHING LIKE 20 POSSIBILITIES...
OH
30 X 20..

WOW
YOU'RE ALL UNEXPECTEDLY AMAZING
WELL, DEPENDING ON THE CIRCUM-STANCES,
EVEN MORE
S-... SIX HUNDRED!?
SFX. JI - GLARE
AH ..
SFX BACHI!

What tension... Is this really joryuu, and a match between teenagers!?
SFX GOKURI... - GULP

R-4e...
You under-stand, dont you?
This is my shogi..!!
Now! Come!!

HOW WILL YOU ANSWER? YASUOKA SHION.
R-4E THIS IS A POINT TO WATCH.
THIS IS THE MATCH
BISHOP...!?
MY ONE MOVE TO RETURN AGAINST AYUMI-KUN!
THINK CARE-FULLY.

B-3D FROM BELOW...
OR B-8! FROM ABOVE!
WHICH?
YASUOKA-SAN, YOU HAVE 30 MINUTES REMAINING.
I HAVE NO TIME, I'VE GOT TO HURRY.
I CAN'T READ IT ALL THE WAY! WHICH!?
SFX GYU! - GRIP

DON'T WORRY, THE PIECES SHOULD TELL ME'
IT'S ALWAYS BEEN LIKE THAT.
THE PIECES
!?
!!

AFTER THAT, YOU CONTINUE WITH SUBTLE READS TO MAKE SURE YOU HAVEN'T MISSED SOMETHING...
A PRO SHOULD BE ABLE TO COME UP WITH A RESPONSE WITHIN 3 MINUTES.
SHE'S USED MORE THAN 30 MINUTES ON THIS MOVE

DOES SHE PLAN TO STRIKE WITH HER BISHOP?
WELL OR ELSE HER STAMINA HAS REACHED IT'S LIMIT

BUT,
WHAT IF YOU THINK AND THINK,
ABOVE OR BELOW
FROM ABOVE OR BELOW... DO YOU KNOW?

AT THAT POINT...
AND YET STILL CAN'T FIGURE OUT WHICH IS BEST?
AT THAT POINT, THE LAST THING A KISHI TRUSTS...

SFX. BASHII!!
B-3D!!
...
Below!
IT WAS ABOVE.

B-8L was the better move!?
Above...
Shion...!!

The King's Tears
Ninth Move

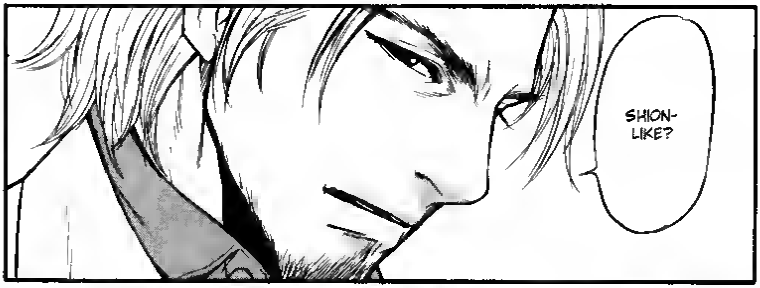
Bishop 3d

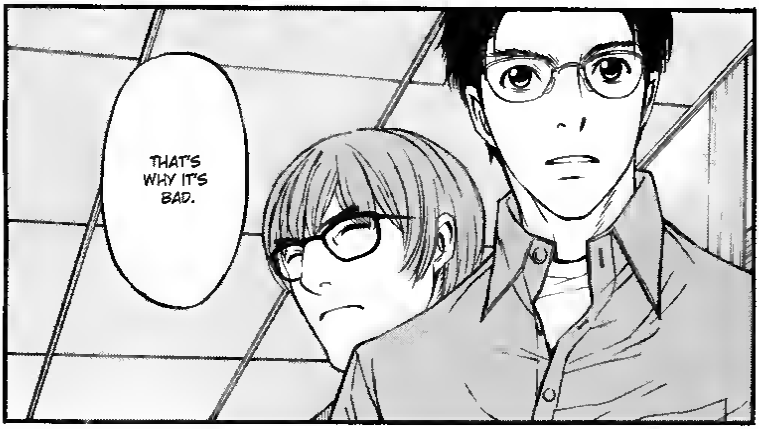
This is good... This is easier for me to counter than if she had played Bishop 8c.

She played a careful hand, as I expected.
This is it.
This one move will decide the match.
SFX: PACHI...
I've won this shogi!

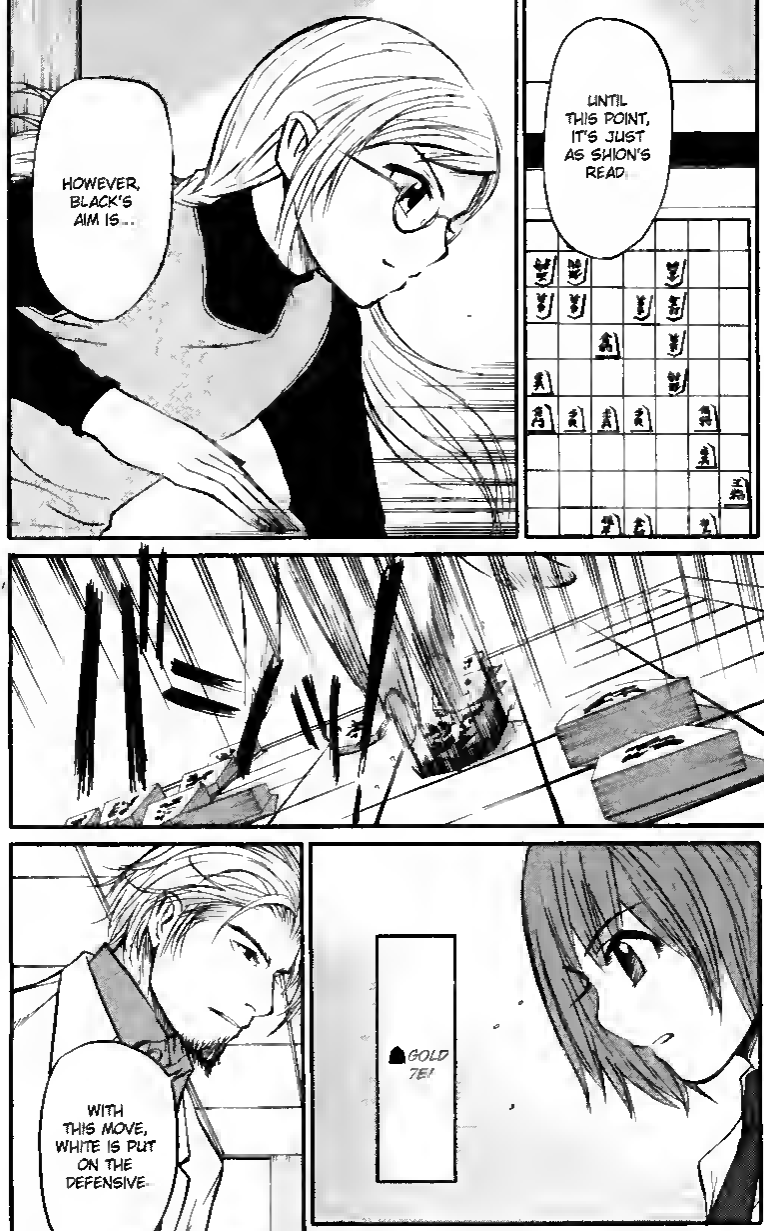
IS IT THAT BAD OF A MOVE?
I THINK IT'S A SOLID, SHION-LIKE MOVE...

BISHOP 3D...


SHION-LIKE?


THAT'S WHY IT'S BAD.

IN THAT SITUATION, SHE MUST HAVE BEEN HESITANT ABOUT USING ☖BISHOP 8I.
AND GOING WITH HER OWN GUT INSTICT, THE MOVE SHE PLAYED WAS..
☗BISHOP 3D, A MOVE WITHOUT ANY INTENSITY!
.....
SEEING THAT MOVE, BLACK ATTACKS
AFTER PROMOTING ☗PAWN 9B, SHE THROWS AWAY A ROOK BY MOVING ☗ROOK 4D


UNTIL THIS POINT, IT'S JUST AS SHION'S READ.
HOWEVER, BLACK'S AIM IS...
SFX: BASH!
GOLD 7E!
WITH THIS MOVE, WHITE IS PUT ON THE DEFENSIVE.

ARE YOU SURE?
SHION MIGHT STILL HAVE A WAY TO ATTACK.
YOU'VE WATCHED HER PLAY SO LONG AND YOU STILL DON'T GET IT?
!?
"ALL OF A SUDDEN", "BEFORE I KNEW IT"...
KISHI WHO LOSE TO HER ALWAYS SAY SOMETHING ALONG THOSE LINES.
THAT IS HER STRENGTH,
AND ALSO HER WEAK-NESS.

HER SHOGI,
IS A SHOGI THAT AVOIDS CONFLICT.
AVOIDS. CONFLICT
IS SOMETHING SAITOU AYUMI KNOWS VERY WELL, AND SOMETHING YASUOKA SHION LACKS .
THE TRUE MEANING OF WINNING AT SHOGI,

TO KILL THE OPPONENT'S KING.

SHE'S OUT OF MOVES.
THAT'S GOT TO BE IT.
IF YOU'RE RELENT-LESSLY ATTACKED, YOU'RE WILL BREAKS AT SOME POINT.

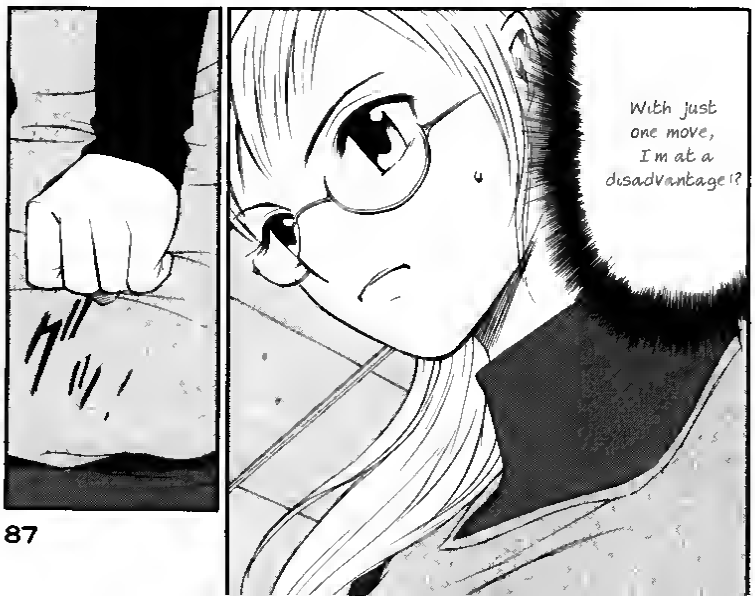
THAT'S WHERE SHION IS SOFT.
.. she's been staring down for a while, avoiding eye contact.
You cant win this sort of match like that
!?
SFX: GU!

No!
Shion...
She was
looking
at my
king!?
My
king.
That's
her
target!!

SFX BAGHII!
Bishop 4e!
SFX DOKUN - LOUD HEART BEAT
AMAZING
JORYUU KISHI YASUOKA SHION, FOR THE FIRST TIME, IS TRYING TO KILL HER OPPONENT'S KING
SFX BACHI

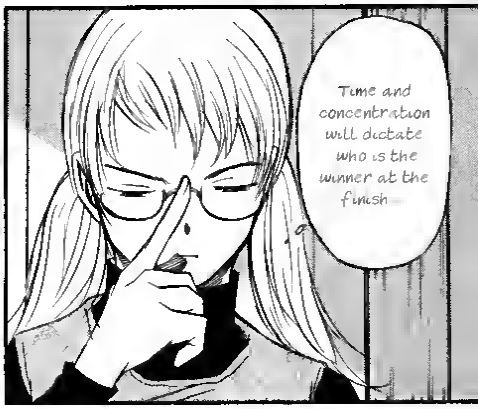
WHAT A GIRL.
SHE'S TRANSFORMED IN THE MIDDLE OF THE MATCH.
She's not broken at all. But more importantly, what is this determination!?
This move...

△Bishop 4e
Her aim is △Promoted Bishop 2g.
That's still far off, however. .
If she uses her Rook at △5a

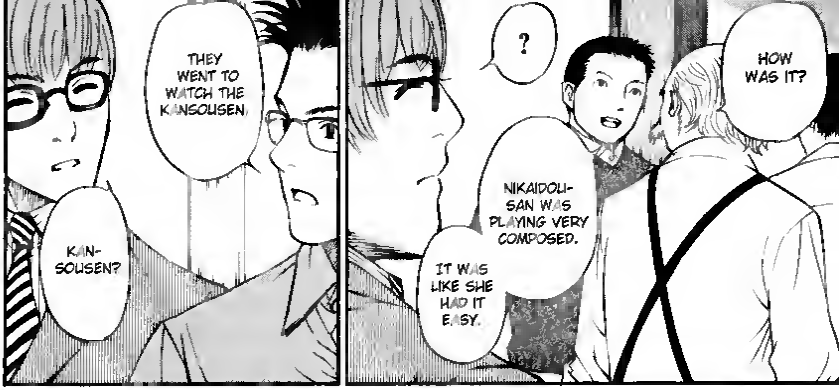

SFX. GU! - CLENCH
With just one move, I'm at a disadvantage!?

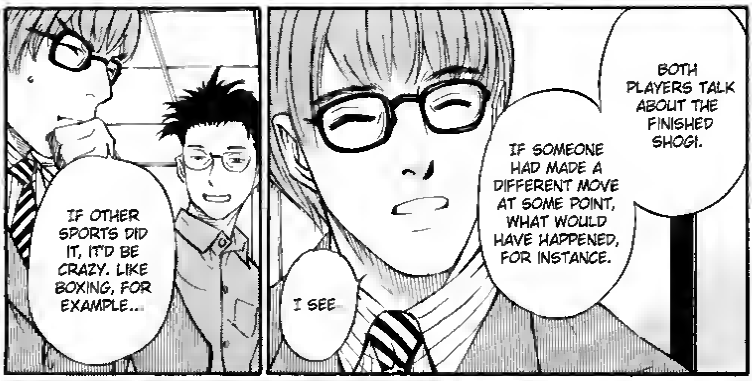
YOU HAVE 20 MINUTES REMAINING.
HOW MUCH TIME DO I HAVE LEFT?
20 minutes... I wish I had a little more.
However, she should have used more time than that with her previous move

Not yet...
I can still do this!!


Time and concentration will dictate who is the winner at the finish...

YOU CAN TELL?
THIS IS A GOOD MATCH.
NO .. JUST THAT SOMEHOW,
THAT'S THE FEELING I GET.
OOH! AS EXPECTED, THAT WAS QUICK.
NIKAIDOU-SAN HAS ADVANCED TO THE FINALS.
ISHINO-SAN HAS RESIGNED!


THEY WENT TO WATCH THE KANSOUSEN.
KAN-SOUSEN?
?
HOW WAS IT?
NIKAIDOU-SAN WAS PLAYING VERY COMPOSED.
IT WAS LIKE SHE HAD IT EASY.


IF OTHER SPORTS DID IT, IT'D BE CRAZY. LIKE BOXING, FOR EXAMPLE...
I SEE.
IF SOMEONE HAD MADE A DIFFERENT MOVE AT SOME POINT, WHAT WOULD HAVE HAPPENED, FOR INSTANCE.
BOTH PLAYERS TALK ABOUT THE FINISHED SHOGI.

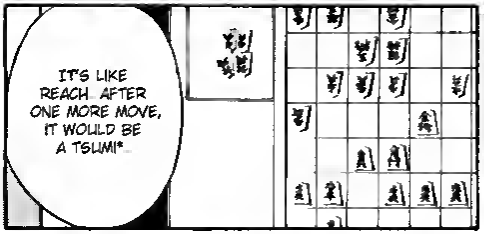
KOBAYASHI-SAN
MEIJIN,
AREN'T YOU GOING TO GO SEE NIKAIDOU-SAN?

NO MATTER WHAT YOU'RE TRYING TO PULL, THERE'S NOTHING HERE BUT SHOGI.
IT SEEMS SO...
I CAN DODGE IT BY MOVING KING 8B
BISHOP 7D , OUTE*
*CHECK
!?
SFX: BISH!!

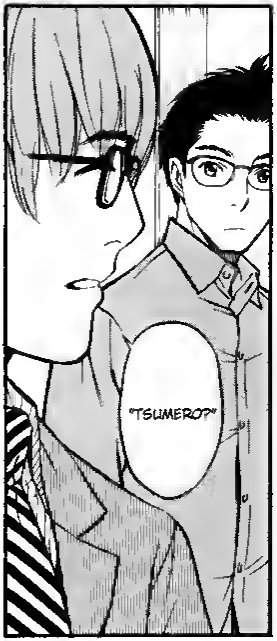
AND WHEN I FINALLY GET TO HAVE A MATCH AGAINST AYUMI-KUN.
AGAIN... THE PIECES LOOK BLURRY
LANCE 7E AN AGGRESSIVE ATTACK, JUST LIKE HIM
BUT WHY AM I HAPPY?

THE REASON I WAS ABLE TO RETURN FROM THAT DREAM,
WAS BECAUSE I WANTED TO PLAY SHOGI AGAINST AYUMI-KUN
SO...
I WON'T RUN AWAY ANY-MORE!!

BLACK HAS A TSUMERO ON HER KING!!
LANCE 2D!


IT'S LIKE REACH. AFTER ONE MORE MOVE, IT WOULD BE A TSUMI*

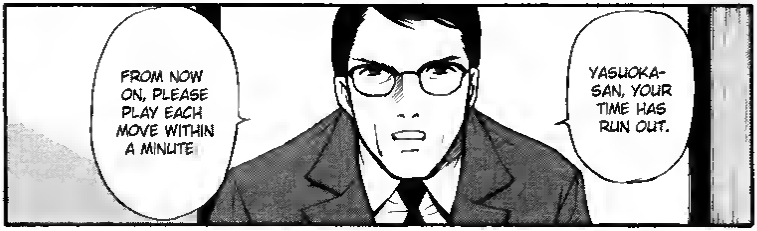
*MATE


"TSUMERO?"

IF SAITOU-SAN DOESN'T DEFEND HERE, SHION WINS!
I SEE!

!!
IT WON'T GO THAT EASILY.
SILVER BC, OUTE?
DOES SAITOU-SAN HAVE A SOKUZUMI* OR SOMETHING!?
*FORCED MATE

WHAT IS HE TRYING TO DO?
△SILVER 8C!?


YASUOKA-SAN, YOUR TIME HAS RUN OUT.
FROM NOW ON, PLEASE PLAY EACH MOVE WITHIN A MINUTE

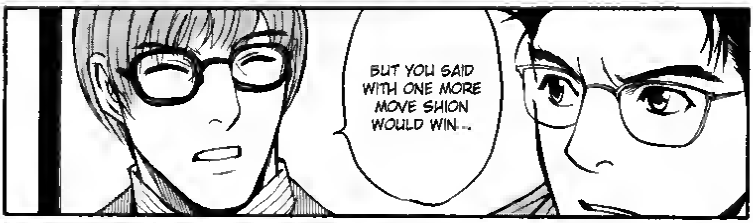
△KING 7C!

30 SECONDS
40 SECONDS
THERE'S NO TIME!

50 SECONDS
1, 2, 3, 4...

!!

TO THINK A MOVE LIKE THAT...
BISHOP 5F!!

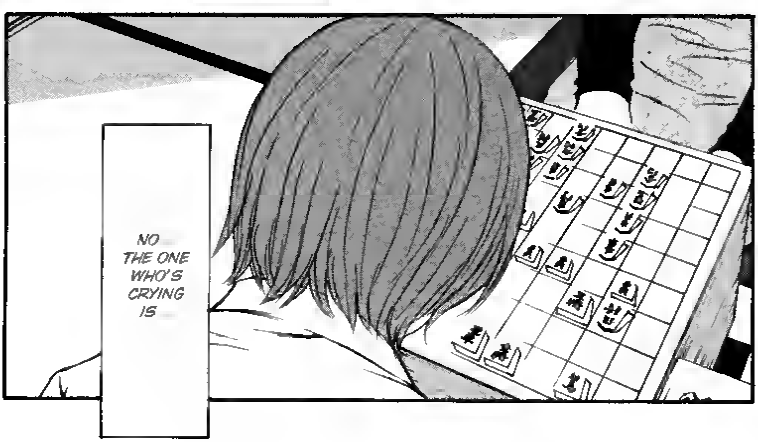

BUT YOU SAID WITH ONE MORE MOVE SHION WOULD WIN...

!?
SHION-SAN IS IN OUTE!!
LOOK CAREFULLY.

IF THE BISHOP AT 4E IS TAKEN,
THE TSUMERO ON BLACK'S KING VANISHES.
.....
ON THE OTHER HAND, IF YOU LOOK AT THE DEFENSIVE SHAPE AND THE PIECES CAPTURED,
THIS SHOGI...
SHION...

BISHOP 5F.
IT'S A GOOD MOVE
IT'S A TERRIBLY GOOD MOVE

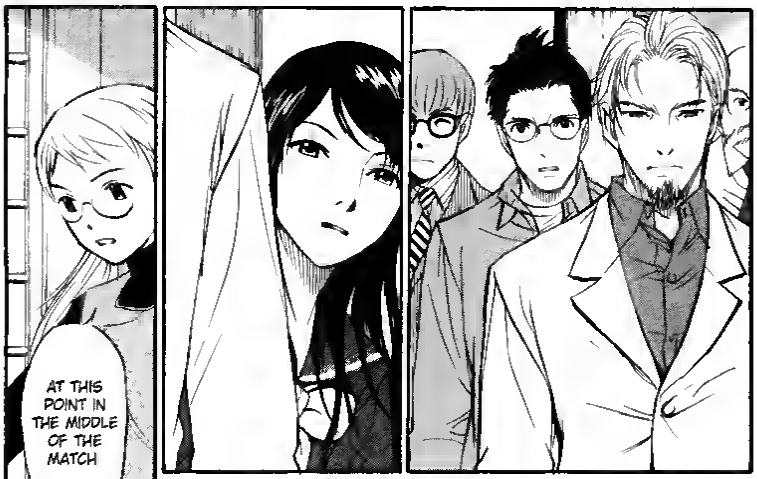
THE KING...
IS CRYING.
SPK. POTA POTA -
TEARS SPLASHING


NO...
THE ONE
WHO'S
CRYING
IS...

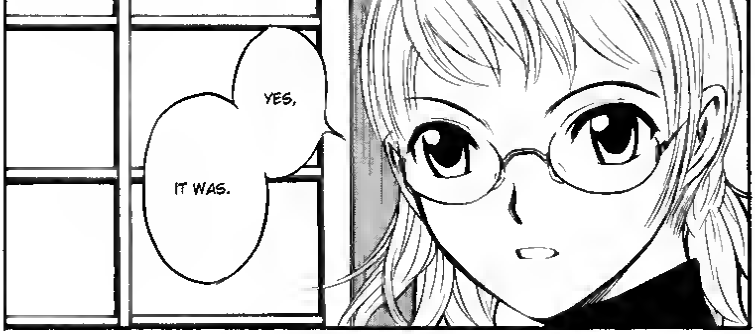
IT'S STRIKING HOW MUCH YOU'VE IMPROVED.
DEFINITELY SOLID SHOGI.

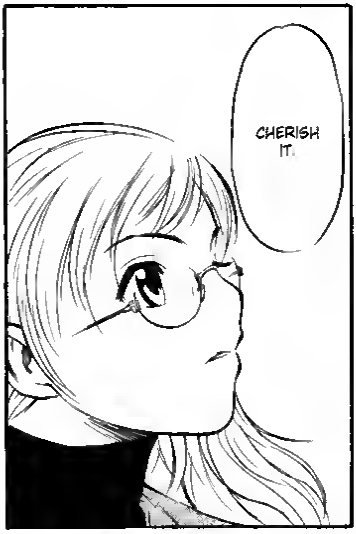
IT LOOKS LIKE YOU'VE BEEN STUDYING HARD.
UM... WHERE IS HANI-NI...
I MEAN, HANI MEIJIN?
HE'S PROBABLY STILL IN THE VISITOR'S ROOM, WATCHING THE SAITOU-YASUOKA MATCH.
IT'S A FIERCE BATTLE OVER THERE.
THE SAITOU-YASUOKA MATCH HAS FINISHED!
SAITOU-SAN AND SHION-CHAN'S MATCH...?

YASUOKA-SAN... HAS RESIGNED.


AT THIS POINT IN THE MIDDLE OF THE MATCH

IF YOU HAD PLAYED △ BISHOP 8I I WOULD HAVE BEEN IN TROUBLE.
.....
SAITOU-KUN.
SHION...
WAS IT INSTINCT THAT MADE YOU THINK THAT?


YES,
IT WAS.


CHERISH IT.

...THAT'S TALENT YOU'VE RECIEVED FROM THE HEAVENS.

Hani-nii ..!?

HAVE YOU CALMED DOWN?
Yes, I'm fine now.

THANK GOODNESS... YOU REALLY SURPRISED ME THERE, ALL OF A SUDDEN.
I won't lose next time!
Thank you for today

...
THAT'S RIGHT.
WE'LL DO THIS AGAIN, SOMEDAY.
SFX. FLIRA FAINT
!?
*EXHALATION

SFX DOSA! - FALLING ON THE BOARD
SOME-ONE!
!!

SHION!
SHE HAS A NASTY FEVER.
SHE PLAYED THAT KIND OF SHOGI IN THIS STATE...

MY CAR WILL BE FASTER! CARRY HER DOWNSTAIRS
CALL AN AMBULANCE!
WHERE'S HER HOSPITAL?
.....
IF I'M STILL HERE AT THAT TIME..
I won't lose next time!
NEXT TIME..

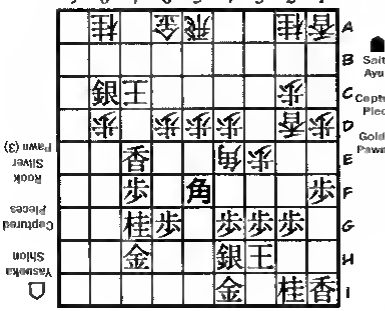
I've never received praise like...
SFX: GU... - CLENCH
That's talent you've received from the heavens.
"JORYUU SHINKYUU OUKANSEN"* FINALS - NIKAIDOU SAORI VS. SAITOU AYUMI
MATCH STARTS - AFTER LUNCH

*JORYUU NEW AND OLD CROWN TOURNAMENT

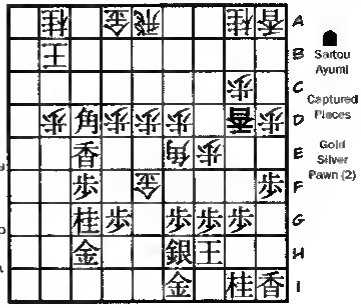
MATCH CHECK!

Diagrams and Commentary by Katon Masaru

(Figure A - Until ☖ Lance 2b)



(Figure B - Until ☗ Bishop 5f)



Shinn and Ayumi, a cnnciusinn tn their fatefui match!

In shogi terms, the most commonly heard phrase is 'shougi-taoshi' (shogi toppling) It doesn't carry a good meaning, so I hope it is not used often, but it means a bunch of people falling over like dominoes, one on top of another

Another phrase, 'Favouring the Rook over the King,' means that, although the King is the most important, some people consider the Rook more important In layman's terms, it means someone is an idiot who does not understand what is most important

It comes up in the chapter, but "Tsumero wo kaketa" (Check) signifies that one is prepared to kill the King next However, 'Tsumero wo kaketa' also means that there are still escape routes available When the opponent cannot do anything, one instead says 'Hisshi ga kakatta, ukenashi " (Death is unavoidable, there is no defense.)

Now, in Figure 1, ☖ Lance 2d has placed "Tsumero' on Ayumi s Ou ☗ Silver 1h is a possible defensive move, but from Figure 1, White placing Silver 8c attacks ☗ Silver 8c is followed by ☖ King 7c, Shion now believes Black will defend ☖ Silver 1h, but as shown in Figure 2, ☗ Bishop 5d is what occurs instead, a surprise Shion's King is now in Oute, so she must escape, but in that instant ☗ Bisbop 4e is played, erasing her "Tsumero," instead killing her pieces, and reversing the roles of attacker and defender, resulting in her loss

When she realized it, it was too late If they were still amateurs, one could say "Hold that one!' but one cannot say that in the Pro world! It is a harsh reality Lets keep watching as Shion grows stronger even with defeat

A Hanashu & TJo Joint

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Explanation Page

Shion no Ou

In this chapter, we are going to introduce a change to the way we've been writing shogi moves. Instead of using straight English shogi notation like we've been doing, we will be making it a bit more descriptive and easy to understand. From now on, we will spell out the name of the piece being moved. For example, if the move is for the white bishop to move to the space 3 to the left and 1 down, in the old system this would have been ☗ B-3a, but in the new system it becomes ☗ Bishop 3a. I hope this makes things easier to understand.
-Drund

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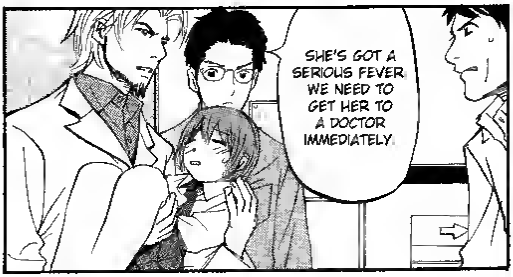
Joint Project

10TH MOVE

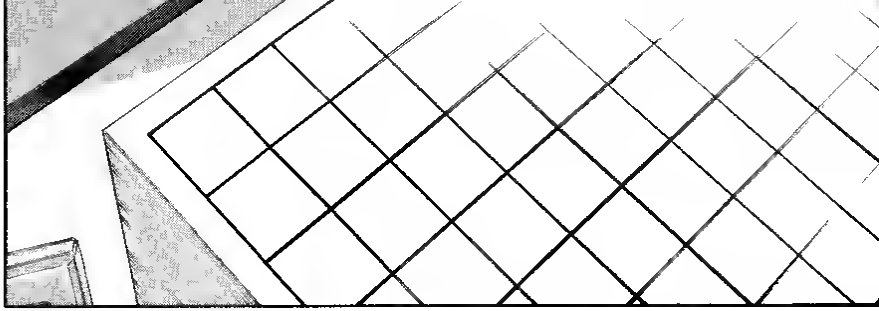
SELFLESS

SHION!


SHE'S GOT A SERIOUS FEVER. WE NEED TO GET HER TO A DOCTOR IMMEDIATELY.

SHION, WAKE UP!

IS IT SO IMPORTANT...
FOR A 13 YEAR-OLD GIRL TO PLAY SHOUGI...
THAT SHE WOULD EVEN DESTROY HER OWN BODY?

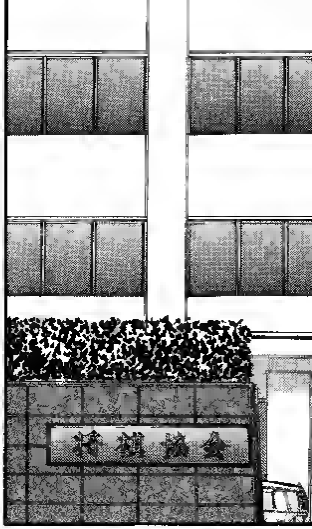


THAT TALENT IS A GIFT FROM HEAVEN.

SAITOU AYUMI...
YOUR EYES...

THEY HAVE THE SAME LOOK THAT HANI-NII'S EYES GET SOMETIMES...
WHOOOOO
I DON'T HAVE WHAT THEY DO...
IS THAT WHY I CAN'T BEAT HER?
NIKAIDOU-SAN, THEY'VE FINISHED SETTING UP THE LUNCHEON...
gulp
DOWN -STAIRS...

SLAM!



IS IT SO IMPORTANT FOR A 13 YEAR-OLD GIRL TO PLAY SHOUGI THAT SHE WOULD EVEN DESTROY HER OWN BODY?!

NO... THAT'S WHAT BATTLES ARE
THAT'S WHAT SHOUGI..

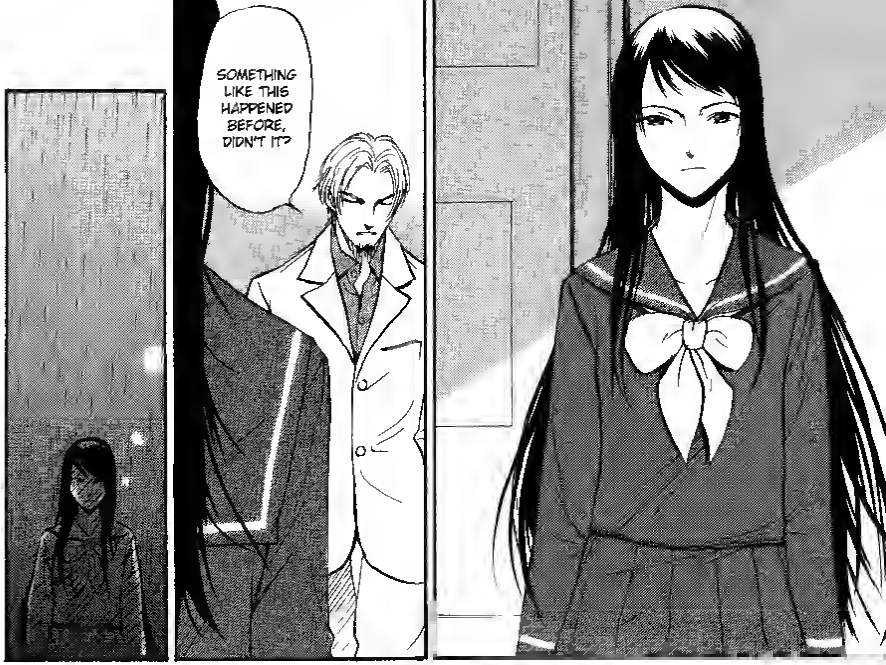
WHY...?
HASN'T SHE SUFFERED ENOUGH?

I LOST MY FATHER, TOO... WHEN I WAS 10.

HE JUMPED IN FRONT OF A TRUCK TO PROTECT MY BROTHER— HE WAS KILLED RIGHT BEFORE MY EYES—

EVERY DAY AFTER, MY BROTHER AND I WOULD PLAY SHOUGI
WHILE WE WAITED FOR OUR MOTHER TO COME BACK FROM WORK
IT BECAME THE ONLY FUN... NO... THE ONLY THING IN MY LIFE.
...
THAT'S THE WORLD SHE LIVES IN NOW.
I DIDN'T NEED ANYTHING ELSE.

THAT WHICH DOESN'T KILL US, ONLY MAKES US STRONGER
SHE'S SURROUNDED BY LOVE AND HAPPINESS NOW...
BECAUSE SHE WAS RAISED ON SHOUGI...


SOMETHING LIKE THIS HAPPENED BEFORE, DIDN'T IT?

ARE YOU CALLING ME
INFERIOR TO SAITOU -SAN?

IF YOU'RE A TRUE SHOUGI PLAYER YOU SHOULD ONLY WORRY ABOUT HOW TO WIN

ARE A FEW WORDS OF PRAISE FROM ME ALL YOU WANT?

YOU NEED TO BE BRAVE ENOUGH TO MAKE HER MAD.
BRAVE ENOUGH... TO MAKE HER MAD...
JORYUU OLD AND NEW CROWN TOURNA -MENT FINALS.
THE TOSS HAS BEEN MADE - NIKAIDOU-SAN, YOU ARE BLACK PLEASE MAKE THE FIRST MOVE

NIKAIDOU SAORI VS SAITOU AYUMI
MAKE THE OPPONENT MAD
WITH SHOUGI?

PONDERING OVER THE FIRST MOVE
JUST LIKE SAITOU-SAN WAS IN THE SEMI-FINALS.
HMMM...
NIKAIDOU-SAN ALWAYS OPENS WITH A STATIC ROOK- HER FIRST MOVE IS INEVITABLY PAWN TO 2-F
I'VE NEVER SEEN NIKAIDOU-SAN SO NERVOUS.
WAIT...
THE AIR IN HERE IS DIFFERENT THAN IT WAS IN THE SEMI-FINALS.

SHE'S... NOT NERVOUS AT ALL?
SFX: TAK
ROOK TO 5-8?!
?
EVEN NIKAIDOU-SAN...
WHAT IS IT ABOUT THIS TOURNAMENT?

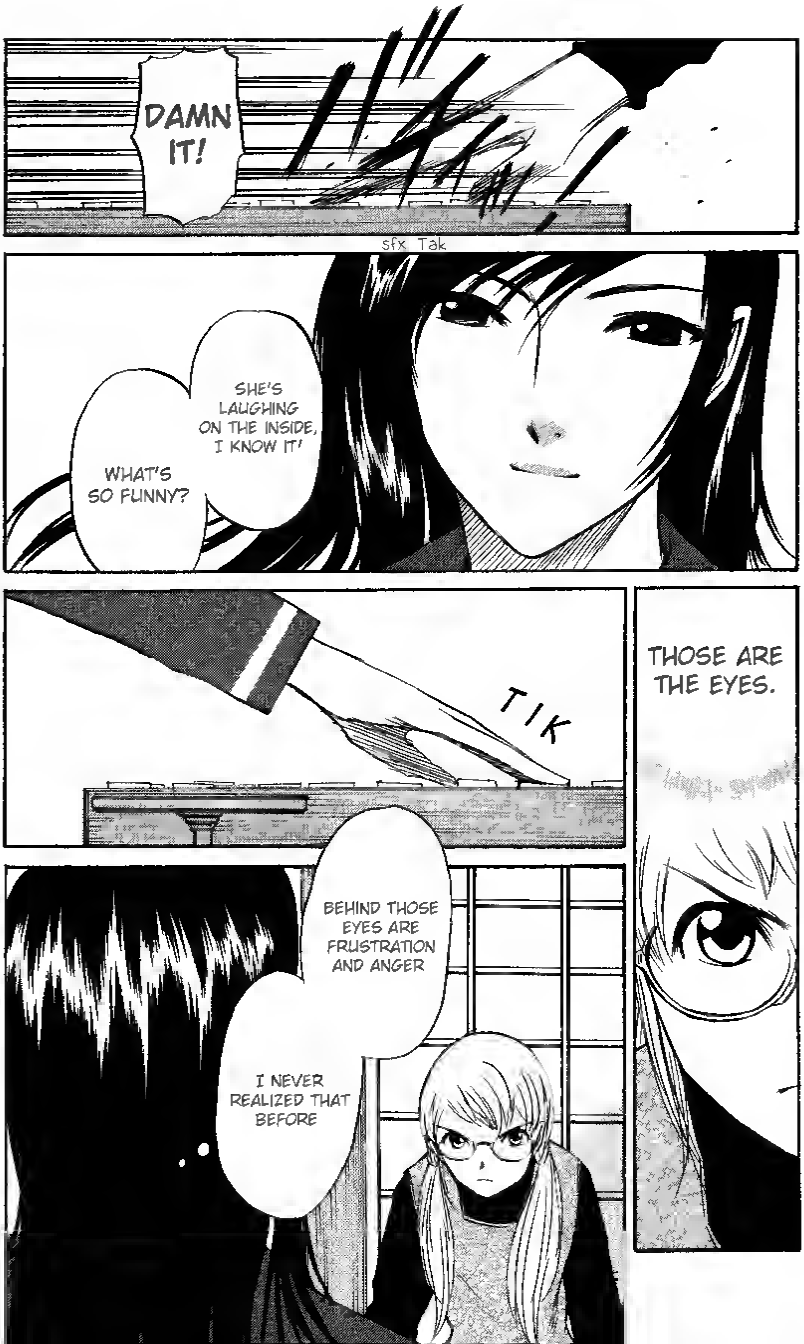
HOW INTEREST -ING!
ISN'T THAT THE SAME "SURPRISE ATTACK" SAITOU-SAN USED?
NOW NIKAIDOU-SAN'S IMITATING HER, IN ADDITION TO YASUOKA-SAN
... YOU THINK SAITOU-SAN WILL START COPYING HER?
IF I UNDERSTAND SAITOU AYUMI'S PERSONALITY CORRECTLY, THEN NO.
IN FACT...

PAWN TO 8-D?
EVEN THOUGH THE RANGING ROOK IS HER SPECIALTY?
SFK TAK
DID MY MOVE MAKE HER MAD?

SAITOU-SAN'S MESSING UP HER STYLE BECAUSE SHE'S ANGRY
I CAN PUT MYSELF IN THE DOMINANT POSITION EARLY IF I JUST KEEP USING TH-
!?
THERE'S NO DOUBT ABOUT IT...

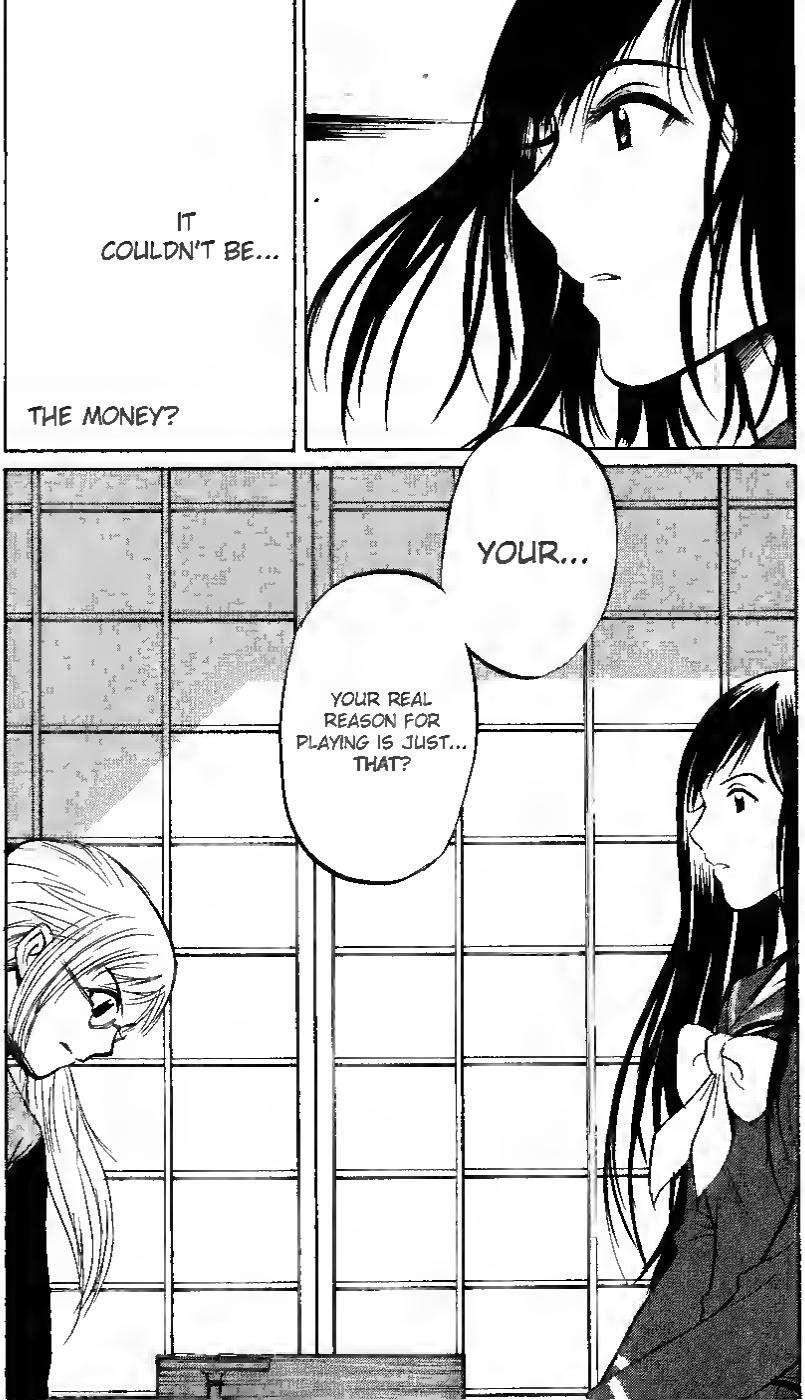
飛車
I'VE NEVER PLAYED A GAME WHERE I TRIED TO READ MY OPPONENT'S FACE AND ADJUST BASED ON THEIR MENTAL STATE, HAVE I?
UNTIL NOW, I'VE JUST LOOKED AT THE BOARD
AND FOCUSED ON PLAYING CLEAN, RESPECTABLE SHOUGI

THIS WAY IS KINDA FUN.

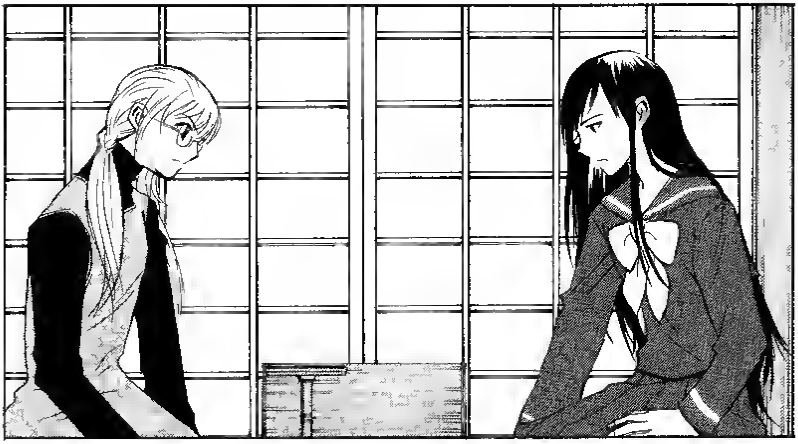

DAMN IT!
Sfx Tak
SHE'S LAUGHING ON THE INSIDE, I KNOW IT!
WHAT'S SO FUNNY?
TIK
THOSE ARE THE EYES.
BEHIND THOSE EYES ARE FRUSTRATION AND ANGER
I NEVER REALIZED THAT BEFORE

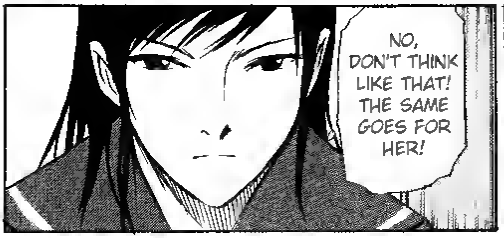
YOU HAVE THE SAME EYES AS HANI-NII...
EYES THAT BOTH SCARE ME AND MAKE ME ENVIOUS...
EYES THAT ARE BLESSED WITH GENIUS, THAT SEE A WORLD THAT'S INVISIBLE TO A DULL GIRL LIKE ME
IF YOU REALLY LOVE SHOUGI, YOU SHOULDN'T PLAY LIKE THIS, RIGHT?
BUT EVEN PLAYING YOUR STYLE OF MATCH I STILL DON'T UNDERSTAND
歩兵
玉将

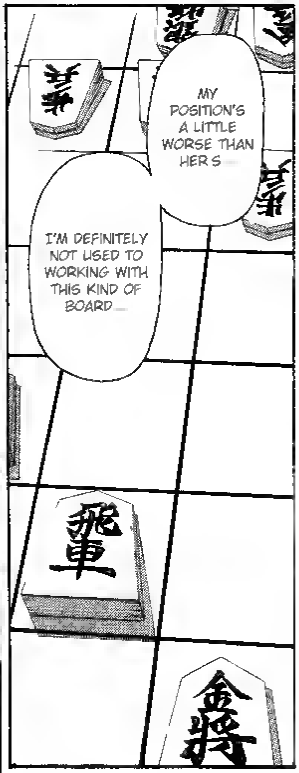
I KNOW THAT TO YOU
THE PRIZE MONEY DOESN'T MEAN A DAMN THING
BUT I ABSOLUTELY HAVE TO WIN IT!
ARRRR RRRGH..
I REFUSE TO LET HER BEAT ME!
I'M ONE WIN AWAY FROM A MILLION YEN!!


IT
COULDN'T BE...
THE MONEY?
YOUR...
YOUR REAL
REASON FOR
PLAYING IS JUST...
THAT?

SO NIKAIDOU-SAN, INSTEAD OF HER USUAL STATIC ROOK, WENT WITH THE RANGING STRATEGY,
AND SAITOU-SAN, INSTEAD OF A RANGING ROOK, DECIDED TO USE STATIC...
SO WHO'S WINNING?
AS WHITE, SAITOU-SAN'S CURRENTLY IN THE BETTER POSITION
THOUGH THESE ARE UNFAMILIAR SETUPS FOR THE BOTH OF THEM, SAITOU-SAN'S MORE USED TO AGGRESSIVE PLAY
OF COURSE, I'M CERTAIN THAT NIKAIDOU-SAN ANTICIPATED THAT.

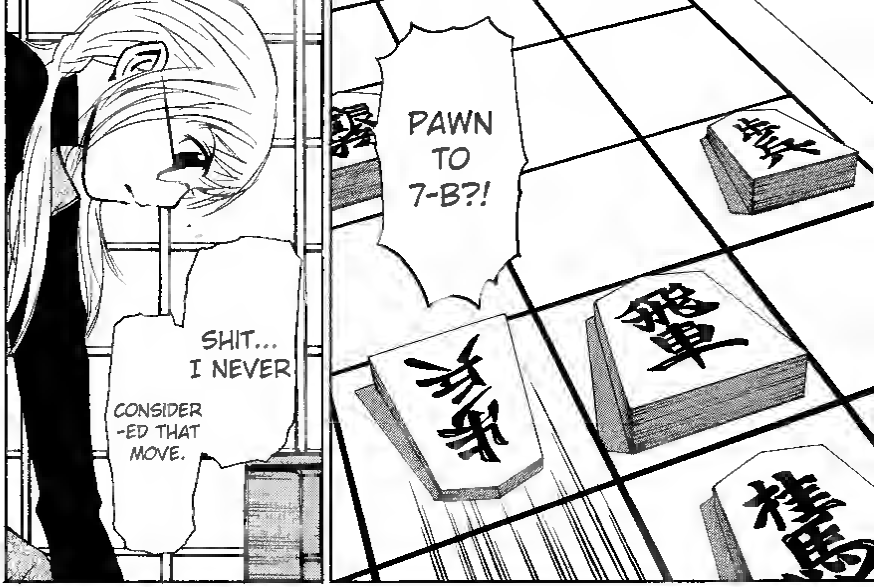



NO, DON'T THINK LIKE THAT! THE SAME GOES FOR HER!

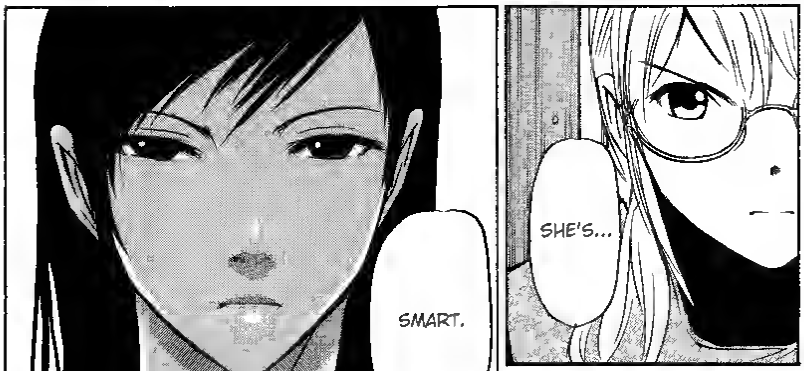

MY POSITION'S A LITTLE WORSE THAN HER'S...
I'M DEFINITELY NOT USED TO WORKING WITH THIS KIND OF BOARD...

SHE'S PUTTING ON A CONFIDENT FACE TO TRY AND SHOW SHE'S UNIMPRESSED.

SO SHE MUST BE LEAVING HERSELF OPEN SOMEWHERE,
AND IF I CAN JUST FIND IT, I CAN TURN THE TIDE BACK IN MY FAVOUR.
SOME -WHERE...
!?
SFX TAK


PAWN TO 7-B?!
SHIT... I NEVER CONSIDER -ED THAT MOVE.

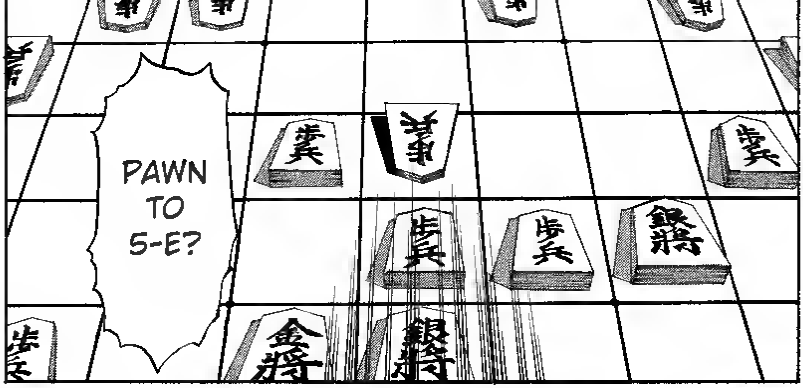
IF I TAKE THAT PAWN WITH MY ROOK SHE'LL DROP HER BISHOP ON 6-A
IF I LEAVE IT ALONE SHE'LL MOVE THAT SAME PAWN TO 7-A AND PROMOTE IT.

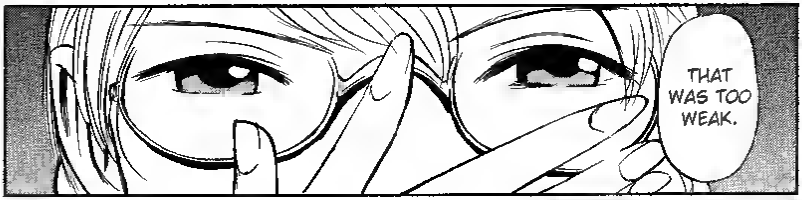

SHE'S...
SMART.

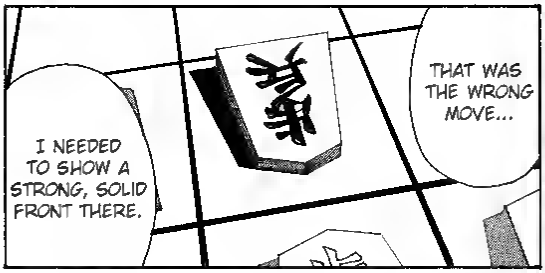
PAWN TO 7-B WAS A GUTSY MOVE.
THAT SHOULD GIVE NIKAIDOU-SAN AN ADVANTAGE, YES?
IT WAS A GOOD MOVE NOW WHITE'S ONLY CHOICE IS TO CAPTURE IT!
I KNEW IT, BISHOP TO 6-A!
SOMETHING IS DIFFERENT ABOUT NIKAIDOU-SAN TODAY...

DID YOU DO SOMETHING TO SAORI?
YOU LOOK HAPPY, MEIJIN.
I DIDN'T DO JACK TO HER.
SHE'S JUST SHOWING US HER COURAGE.

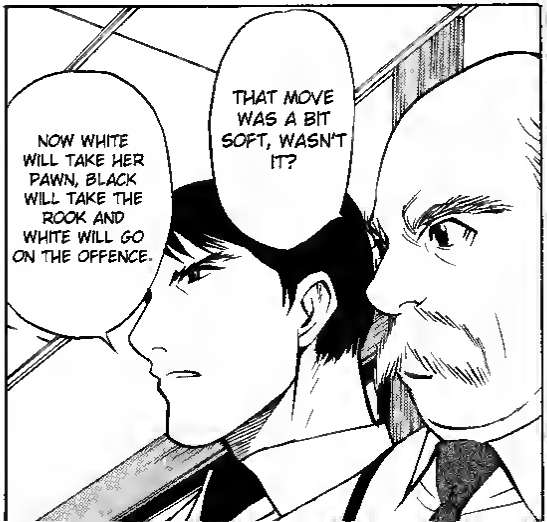
I'M BETTER THAN HER AT END-GAME STRATEGY;
I'LL FORCE HER INTO WASTING TIME.
AND PIN HER DOWN!
THIS ISN'T OVER!
PAWN TO 4-B...
I'VE GOT TO GO ON THE OFFENSIVE!


PAWN TO 5-E?


THAT WAS TOO WEAK.


I NEEDED TO SHOW A STRONG, SOLID FRONT THERE.
THAT WAS THE WRONG MOVE...

I'M PLAYING POLITE SHOUGI AGAIN


NOW WHITE WILL TAKE HER PAWN, BLACK WILL TAKE THE ROOK AND WHITE WILL GO ON THE OFFENCE.
THAT MOVE WAS A BIT SOFT, WASN'T IT?

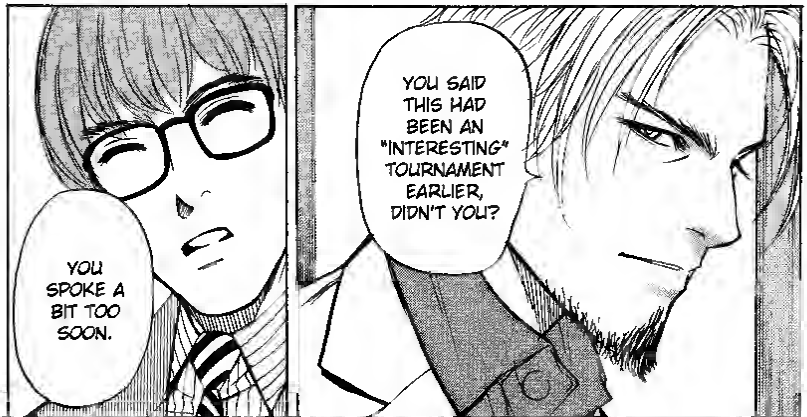
SILVER TO 4-D!
EAT THAT!
WASTE YOUR TIME TRYING TO THINK OF A COUNTER!
20 MINUTES, NIKAIDOU-SAN.
HOW MUCH TIME IS LEFT?
TELL ME WHEN WE'VE GOT 10 MINUTES.

SILVER TO 4-D. .
THAT WAS A STRONG MOVE, BUT ONE MADE IN DESPERATION.
SHE LEFT MY ROOK ALONE ON PURPOSE...
SHE'S MAKING A FOOL OUT OF ME!
ALL RIGHT THEN...

I'LL SHOW YOU HOW BRAVE I CAN BE!

SHE LEAVES HER ROOK IN PLACE
AND MOVES HER GOLD TO 4-A!!

KOBAYASHI -SAN...


YOU SAID THIS HAD BEEN AN "INTERESTING" TOURNAMENT EARLIER, DIDN'T YOU?
YOU SPOKE A BIT TOO SOON.

YOU'VE WATCHED SAORI... SAITOU AYUMI...
AND YASUOKA SHION TODAY, HAVEN'T YOU?
I TOOK HER TOO LIGHTLY..
I'M FINISHED..
THE TRULY INTERESTING PHASE OF JORYUU
IS JUST ABOUT TO START.
WHY DO I FEEL SO... SATISFIED?

HEHE...
IT MUST BE THE THRILL OF VICTORY.
NIKAIDOU NAORI- JORYUU OLD AND NEW CROWN TOURNAMENT CHAMPION
TODAY MARKS THE BEGINNING OF THE NEW PHASE OF THE JORYUU

対局CHECK!

SHOGI 101: PIECES

IMAGE
ABBREVIATIONS
ENGLISH
KANJI
ROMAJI

KING
王将
ōshō
K, 王, ō

ROOK
飛車
hisha
R, 飛, hi

BISHOP
角行
kakugyō
B, 角, kaku

GOLD
金将
kinshō
G, 金, KIN

SILVER
銀将
ginshō
S, 銀, gin

EACH PLAYER HAS:
1 KING
1 ROOK
1 BISHOP
2 GOLD GENERALS
2 SILVER GENERALS
2 KNIGHTS
2 LANCES
9 PAWNS

KNIGHT
桂馬
keima
N, 桂, kei

LANCE
香車
kyōsha
L, 香, kyo

PAWN
歩兵
fuhyō
P, 歩, fu

NEXT LESSON:
MOVEMENT
PROMOTED PIECES
PROMOTION AREA

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TRANSLATOR NOTES:

NONE FOR THIS CHAPTER REALLY.

SORRY -.- EXCEPT

DO YOU JUST WANNA TRY YOUR HAND AT AN HQ SCAN?

IT'S A LOT OF WORK, GOOD LUCK!

Editor Notes:

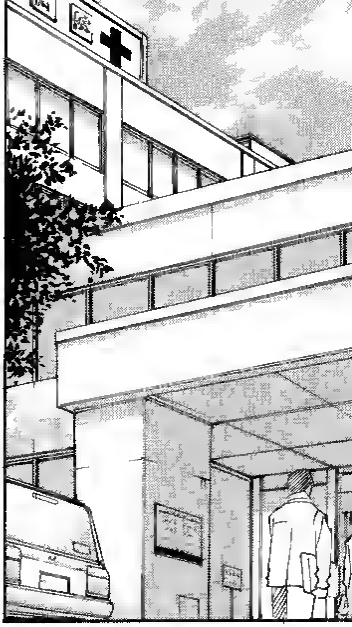
Thanks for reading Shion no Ou

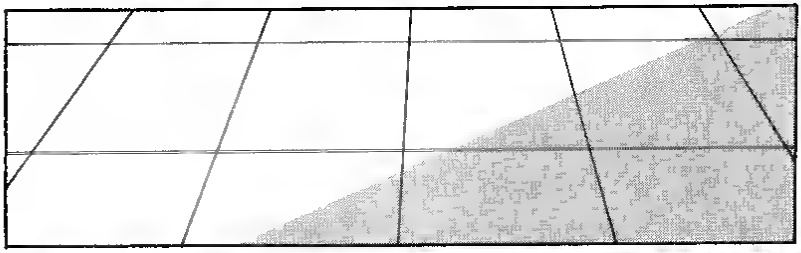
This is a higher quality release. For those of you that care. (I do.)

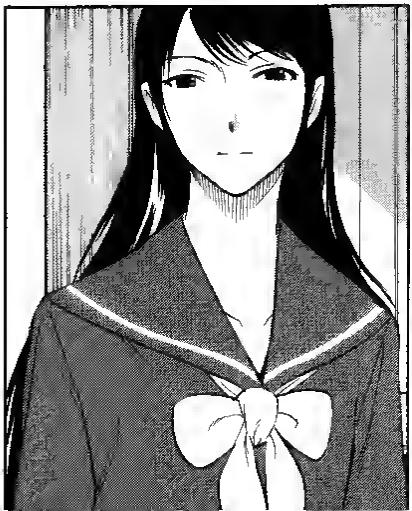
Chapter 14 might be release later then the 14th sorry vacation and the new school semester have me really busy.

Higher quality of chapter 11 soon along with chapter 13!

11TH
MOVE
AWAKENING





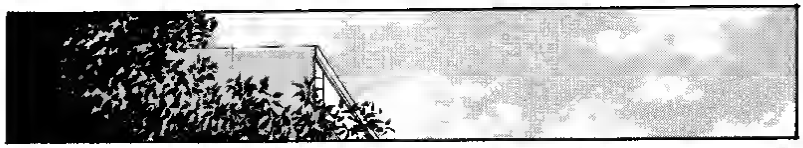
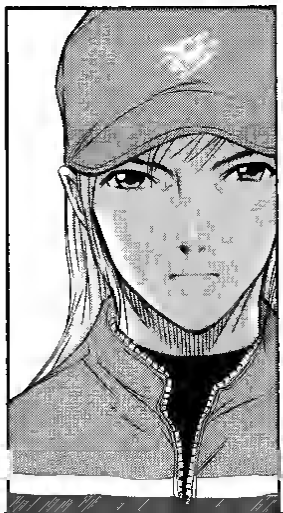


SAITOU-SAN?
HUH?
HERE'S SOME OF THE MONEY... 150,000 YEN.
SAITOU -SAN!
YES!

I'M SO SORRY ABOUT THIS. I'LL HAVE IT NEXT MONTH, I PROMISE...
MMHMM... AND WHEN CAN WE EXPECT THE REST?
MELON BREAD, CHOCOLATE-MELON DONUTS ...
Yes, ma'am!
DEAR ARE YOU SURE YOU DON'T WANT ANYTHING BESIDES MELON BREADS?
AND AN OGURA MELON LOAF.

YOU HAVE TO EAT SOMETHING BESIDES SWEETS!
SHION!
FINE, THEN I'LL STEAM UP SOME BROCCOLI FOR YOU WHEN WE GET HOME
But the doctor said I needed proper nourishment

WHAT'S THE MATTER, SHION?

IF I'D JUST WON THAT DAMN MATCH...
2ND PLACE PRIZE 150,000 YEN
I'M SORRY.
I WASN'T ABLE TO WIN THE CHAMPION -SHIP MATCH

I HEARD YOU PLAYED SOME NICE SHOGI, THOUGH.
THANK YOU.
WERE YOU
THAT WASN'T A COMPLIMENT, YOU LITTLE CLOWN!
WERE YOU REALLY PLAYING JUST FOR THE CASH?

YOU ENJOYED THOSE MATCHES, DIDN'T YOU?
JUST TAKE THAT CHUMP CHANGE AND GET OUTTA HERE
GO SPEND IT ON WHATEVER YOU WANT

WHAT WHAT SHOULD I DO?
SLIDE
150,000 YEN IS ALL YOUR SKILL IS WORTH RIGHT NOW.
2ND
PLACE PRIZE
150,000 YEN

AND GET STRONGER, GET SMARTER
PUT YOUR LIFE ON THE LINE

SHOGI ASSOC
THERE'S NOT MUCH ELSE A SHOGI PLAYER CAN DO.

SEE!
IT'S COMPLETE BS!
スポーツ
お相手は
NIKAIDOU-SAN, I UNDERSTAND WHY YOU'RE ANGRY
BUT THIS IS JUST THE GOSSIP SECT -ION OF A SPORTS MAGAZINE
WHY ISN'T THE ASSOCIATION PROTESTING AGAINST THIS TRASH?!
GRRRGH
THIS ISN'T ONLY ABOUT ME! HANI-NII, ERR...
HANI-MEIJIN ISN'T HAPPY ABOUT THIS, EITHER!

LET'S SEE HERE.
WHOO, THEY SNAPPED A TON OF SHOTS OF US, DIDN'T THEY?
HUH?
HAA
?
I DON'T REALLY MIND, TO BE HONEST.
AND I DON'T LIKE THAT!
BUT IT WASN'T THE SHOGI THAT GOT US NOTICED...
THIS IS FREE PUBLICITY FOR THE WOMEN'S LEAGUE. THAT'S A GOOD THING, RIGHT?

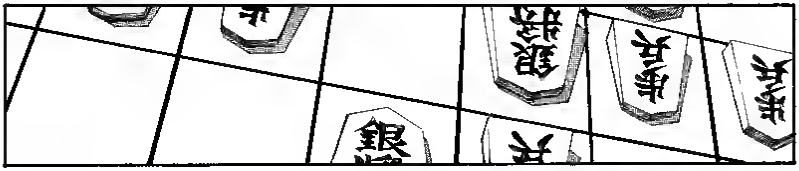
BESIDES,
THEY'RE CALLING IT A "LOVE AFFAIR," FOR GOD'S SAKE! BETWEEN ME AND THE MEIJIN!
THAT'S PRETTY MUCH WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE, THOUGH.
RESEARCH

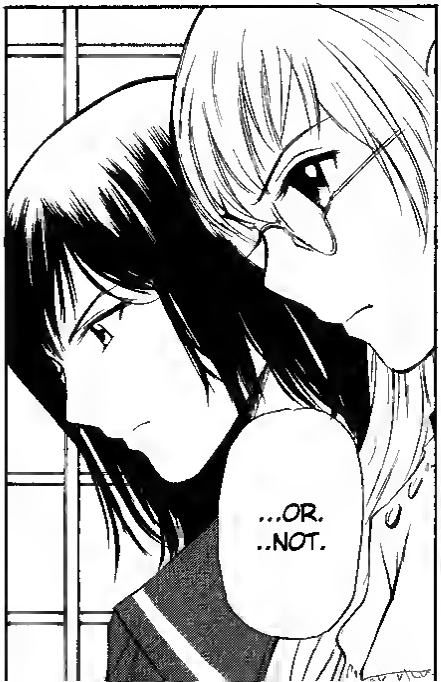
IT'S A RARE PLEASURE
TO SEE YOU AT A RESEARCH MEETING, SAITOU-SAN
ARE YOU THAT MAD ABOUT LOSING TO SAORI?
HUH?
...ANYWAYS, LET'S GET SOME 2-ON-1 IN, SHALL WE?
UNREAL...
IT MAY ONLY BE A PRACTICE MATCH, BUT I'M ACTUALLY PLAYING AGAINST THE MEIJIN!
YOU'D RATHER NOT?
OH, NO, OF COURSE I WOULD!
IF YOU PLEASE!

LET'S PLAY AN EVEN MATCH.
BISHOP HANDICAP, PLEASE
HOW SHOULD WE PLAY..
IT'S BEEN LONG ENOUGH.
AM I INTERRUPT -ING?
OF COURSE NOT! I CAN'T TELL YOU HOW HAPPY IT MAKES US TO SEE OUR SPONSOR DEVELOP A GENUINE INTEREST IN SHOGI.
THAT TOURNA- MENT REALLY DREW ME IN
SLIDE
THERE ARE NO OFFICIAL MATCHES TODAY, BUT SOME OF OUR PLAYERS ARE HERE DOING RESEARCH.
OH?

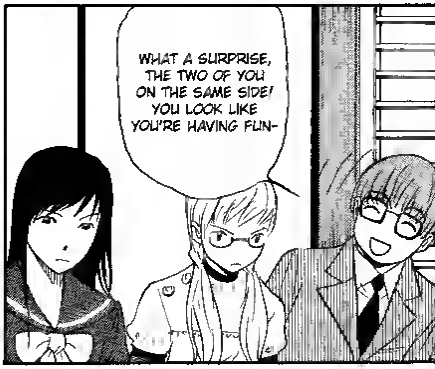
WHAT?

ACK!



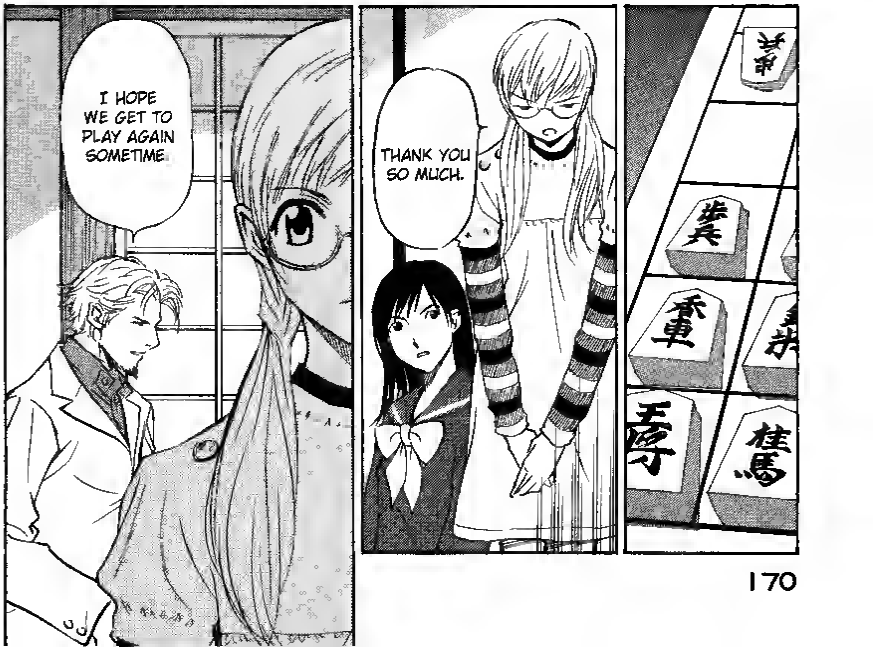

...OR.
..NOT.

GULP


WHAT A SURPRISE, THE TWO OF YOU ON THE SAME SIDE! YOU LOOK LIKE YOU'RE HAVING FUN-

THEY MAY ONLY BE YOUNG MEMBERS OF THE WOMEN'S LEAGUE, BUT BOTH NIKAIDOU-SAN AND SAITOU-SAN BOTH HAVE GENUINE TALENT.
NOT ONE BIT!
IS IT EASY TO PLAY AGAINST TWO OPPONENTS AT ONCE?
I DOUBT ANYONE BESIDES HANI-MEIJIN WOULD EVEN STAND A CHANCE.
BUT HE'S A GENIUS!
I KNEW IT ALREADY, OF COURSE,
I THOUGHT EVERYTHING WAS GOING OUR WAY RIGHT THROUGH THE MID-GAME,
BUT WITH ONE SINGLE MOVE, HE COMPLETELY DESTROYED MY PLAN FOR THE END!

WHAT YOU NEED RIGHT NOW IS TO GET A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF YOUR SHOGI... OR RATHER...
A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF YOURSELF.
YOU SHOULD'VE PULLED YOUR SILVER BACK ON THAT LAST MOVE.


I HOPE WE GET TO PLAY AGAIN SOMETIME.
THANK YOU SO MUCH.

WITHOUT REGARDS
TO GENDER,
OR IF YOU'RE A PRO, OR AMATEUR
SEEING WHO, OUT OF EVERYONE, IS THE BEST... THAT'S WHAT *REAL* SHOGI IS, RIGHT?
STOP!
Y-YOU'RE THE MEIJIN, YOU CAN'T SAY THAT...
GASP
HANI -NII...

I SAID IT BECAUSE I CAN TELL KOBAYASHI-SAN LIKES "EVIL" PLANS.
HAHAHA.
AND THERE'LL BE MORE CRAZY STORIES IN THE PAPER.
THE PEOPLE OUTSIDE WILL HEAR
IF WE'RE TALKING ABOUT SOMETHING AS INTRIGUING AS THAT, I'M DEFINITELY AT YOUR SERVICE.

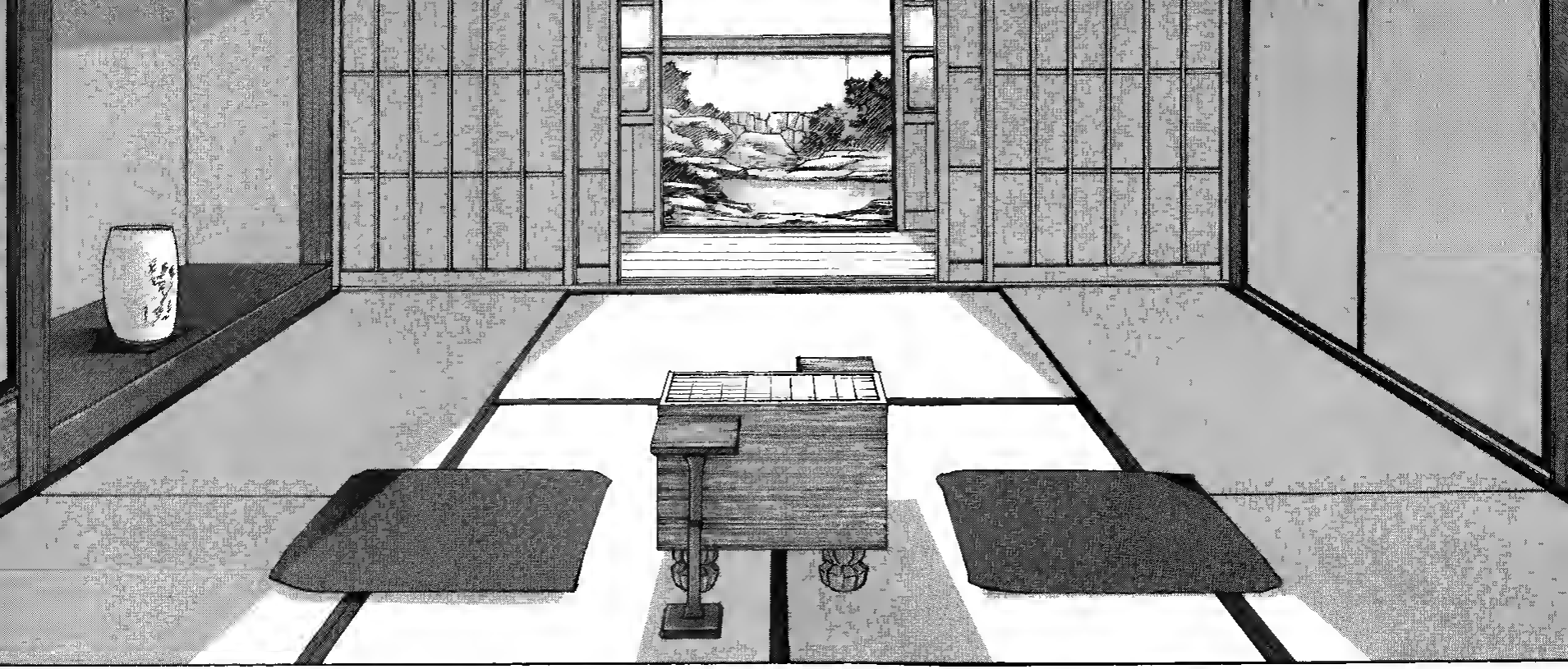
THIS IS SO OUT OF THE BLUE. WHY ARE WE ALL GOING TO A HOT SPRING?
YOU WERE THE ONE THAT SAID SHION NEEDED TO TAKE IT EASY FOR A WHILE.
THAT'S TRUE.
BUT WHY, OF ALL PLACES, ARE WE GOING HERE..
?
HEYA!

GOOD TO SEE YOU AGAIN, YASUOKA!
SO THIS IS SHION...
HEH.

HRMMMMMMMMM...

Hello!

C'MON, I'LL SHOW YOU SOMETHING REALLY COOL
LOOK, COOK!
THAT'S WHY YOU TOOK US HERE, WASN'T IT...
STARE
THIS IS IT.



THIS ROOM...

SIX YEARS AGO,
YOUR DAD FOUGHT FOR THE TITLE OF "MEIJIN..."
THEY WERE TIED, 3 TO 3.
THE NEXT MATCH WOULD BE THE DECISIVE ONE — THE WINNER WOULD BECOME THE NEW MEIJIN
AND LOST.
THE STRAIN OF THE END-GAME GOT TO HIM, AND HE MADE A MOVE WITHOUT FULLY THINKING IT THROUGH.

EVERYONE KNEW IMMEDIATELY THAT IT WAS A BAD MOVE
EVEN AFTER THE MATCH ENDED, AND THE MENTAL
HE SAT THERE ALL NIGHT, JUST STARING AT THE BOARD

WE WANTED EVERYONE TO THINK WE WERE CHILD GENIUSES, BUT WE COULDN'T PULL IT OFF.
YASUOKA AND I WERE IN THE SAME CLASS AT THE SHOUREI TRAINING CAMP WHEN WE WERE LITTLE.
I COULDN'T CUT IT AS A PRO, AND ENDED UP INHERITING THIS RYOKAN ..
BUT YASUOKA FLAT-OUT REFUSED TO QUIT.

YASUOKA HAD RESOLVED TO KEEP GOING, NO MATTER WHAT...
AND SUDDENLY THIS GUY, WHO EVERYONE THOUGHT WAS OVER THE HILL AT 40, WAS CHALLENGING FOR THE TITLE OF "MEIJIN."
HE BARELY BECAME A 4-DAN BEFORE HE REACHED THE AGE LIMIT.
HE WAS LIKE THAT BACK THEN, AND HE'S LIKE THAT NOW...

I WASN'T PAYING ATTENTION WHEN I DID THAT!
HANG ON!
YOU SURE?
HAHAHA!
HEY, UMM... YASUOKA
SFX: BUM
WH-
I'M SORRY!
WHERE THE HELL DID THAT COME FROM?
WHEN YOU FIRST SAID YOU WERE TAKING SHION IN AS YOUR OWN...
FOR BEING SO AGAINST IT

I WAS WORRIED THAT YOU'D USE HER
AS AN EXCUSE TO RUN AWAY FROM THE SHOGI WORLD
BUT YOU ACTED THE SAME AS YOU DID BACK THEN. YOU DIDN'T RUN. YOU DIDN'T MAKE EXCUSES
I REALIZE THAT NOW THAT I'VE MET SHION MYSELF.
YOU'VE RAISED HER TO BE AN EXCELLENT KISHI.
NO...
I DIDN'T RAISE HER TO PLAY THE WAY SHE DOES.

SHION'S SHOGI GAME
IS HERS, AND HERS ALONE.
H-HEY!
STAGED OUT AGAIN? GAHA-HAHA
TSK... THAT DAD OF YOURS...
THEY'LL BE PLAYING AND DRINKING UNTIL THE SUN COMES UP

WHY DON'T YOU TRY AND LIVE MORE LIKE A NORMAL GIRL-
INSTEAD OF DOING NOTHING BUT PLAY SHOGI,

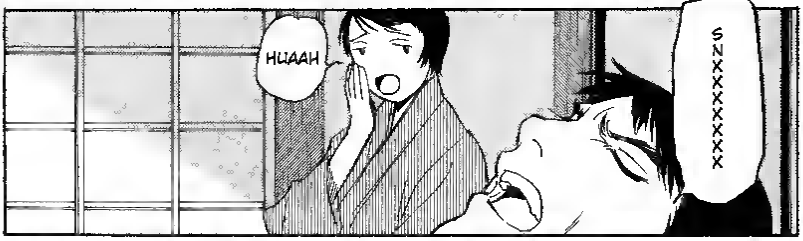
YOU KNOW, SHION...

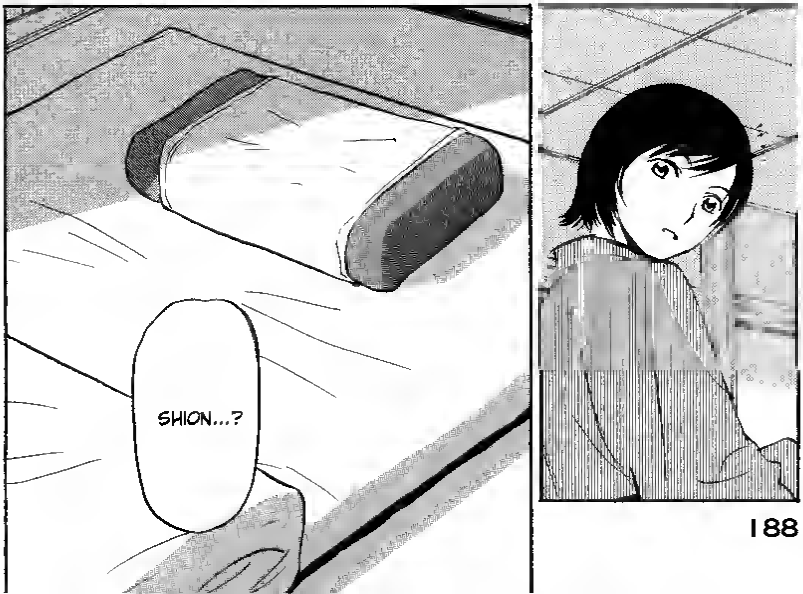
COME ON; GET IN ALL THE WAY TO YOUR CHIN!

NOTHING, NEVER MIND!

AND DON'T COME UP UNTIL I COUNT TO 100.
ONE,
!
TWO.

NNNN...
Chirp
Chirp


HUAAH
SNXXXXXXXXX


SHION...?

TAK
OOH, IT'S CHILLY!

SHION...

11TH MOVE END

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TRANSLATOR
- HISSHOUBURAIKEN
PROOFREADER
- KASSIEK
QUALITY CHECKER
- LUISALIRIO84
EDITOR
- XIPHIAS
REDRAW
- VJAIN (PAGE 163)

TRANSLATOR NOTES:

PAGE 154:
150,000 YEN = 1,403.77
1 USD = 106.855 JPY
-:IN CASE YOU WANTED TO KNOW:-

PAGE 184:
KISHI - A PROFESSIONAL
SHOGI PLAYER

Editor Notes:
Thanks for reading Shion no Ou

So anyway a lot of people are asking where is chapter 13.. Well I'm going to bulk release all of volume 3 in Feburary (YAY)

If you have any questions relating to shogi or shion in general go to - http//wwwnoismanganet/ and ask!

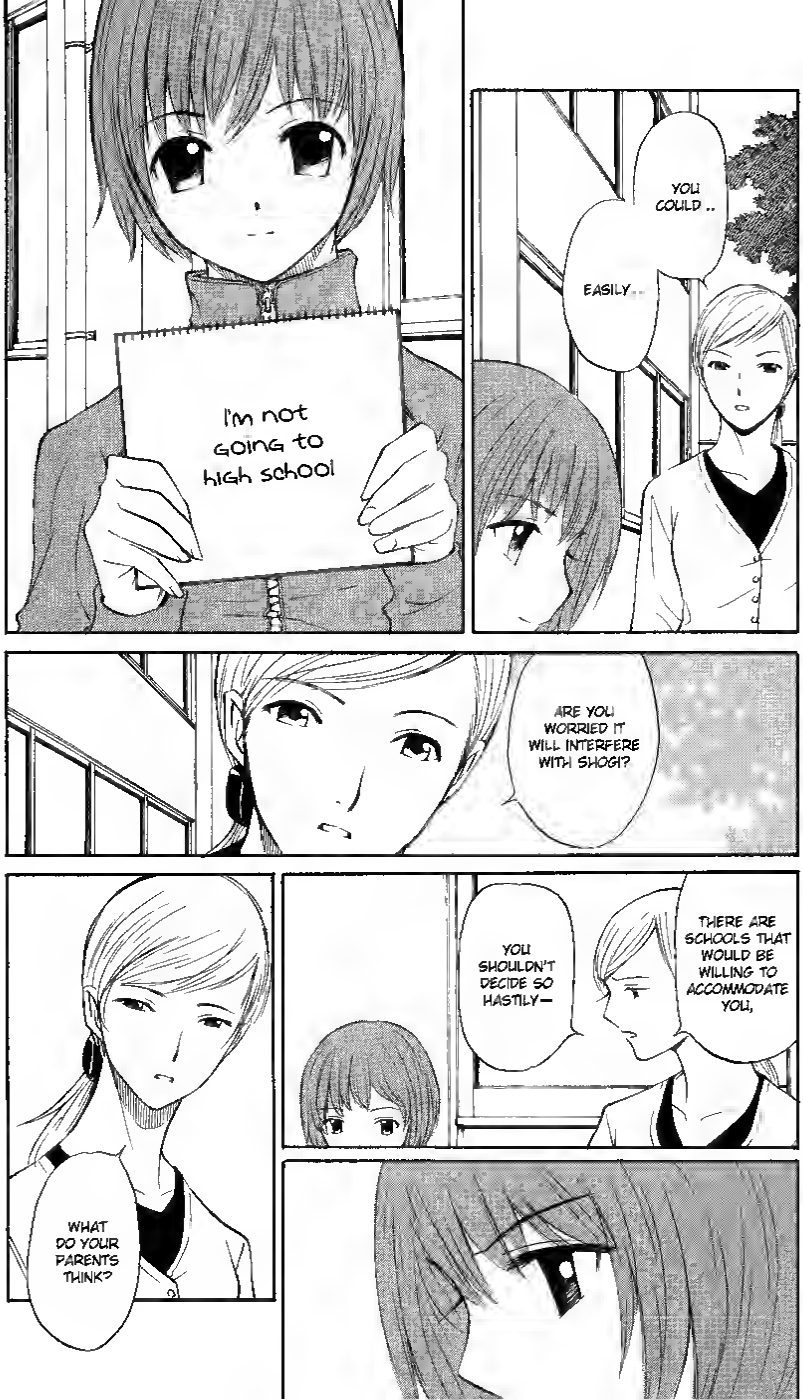
12TH
MOVE
TAUNT
1 - C
Yasuoka

SO SHION,
ARE YOU LIKE, GONNA BE A PRO SHOGI PERSON WHEN YOU GROW UP?
THEY'RE CALLED "KISHI."
AND SHE ALREADY IS ONE, REMEMBER?
OH YEAH.
ARE YOU GONNA KEEP PLAYING FOREVER?

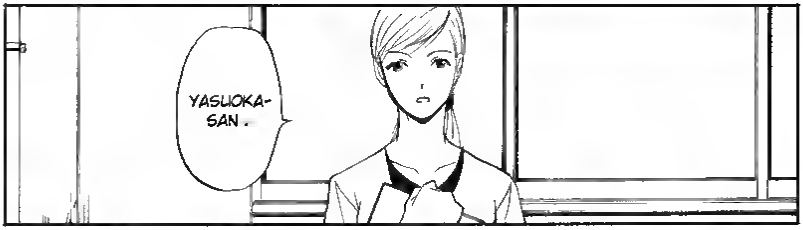
IT MUST BE TOUGH JUGGLING SCHOOLWORK AND SHOGI, HUH?
YEAH, YOU SEEM REALLY BUSY THESE DAYS, SHION
I-C
Yasuoka
AND YOU STILL GET A's ALL THE TIME?
Yes
But I don't go to any cram schools or extra lessons
ME TOO, YOU'LL HAVE TONS OF MONEY SAVED FOR WHEN YOU'RE OLDER!
I GOTT...ADMIT, I'M A LITTLE JEALOUS.
THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT

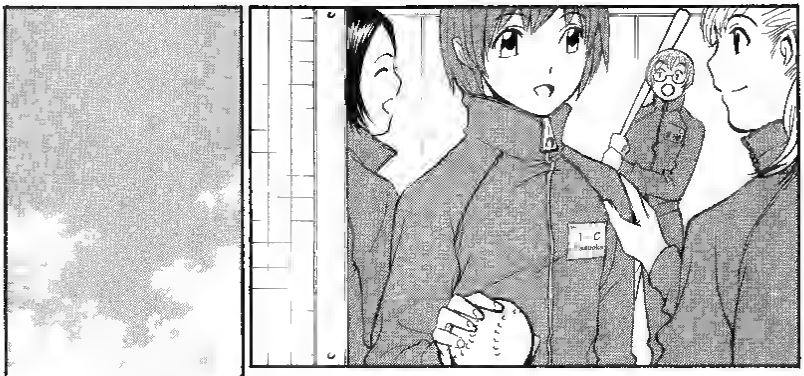
SHION'S ALREADY LIVING OUT HER DREAMS.
1 - C
Yasuoka
YASUOKA-SAN!
YEP.
I'VE BEEN LOOKING EVERYWHERE FOR YOU.

I'M SORRY I HAD TO PULL YOU AWAY FROM YOUR GAME
2ND-YEARS ARE SUPPOSED TO START MEETING WITH THEIR COUNSELORS THIS MONTH,
BUT I WANTED TO TALK TO YOU AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE...
YASUOKA-SAN, WITH YOUR GRADES,


I'm not going to high school
YOU COULD .. EASILY...
ARE YOU WORRIED IT WILL INTERFERE WITH SHOGI?
THERE ARE SCHOOLS THAT WOULD BE WILLING TO ACCOMMODATE YOU,
YOU SHOULDN'T DECIDE SO HASTILY—
WHAT DO YOUR PARENTS THINK?

I'm pretty sure my dad will understand
ROLL
ROLL
ROLL
HEY SHION! LITTLE HELP!
GRAB...
AND YOUR MOM?


YASUOKA-SAN.

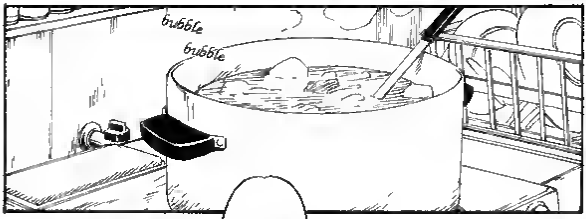

1-C

HELLO!
PARTY OF TWO?
ONE TENZARU AND ONE CURRY-DON'
COMIN' UP
WHERE ON GOD'S GREEN EARTH IS AYUMI?
THAT FREAKIN' KID, HE JUST KEEPS SKIPPING WORK AND DOESN'T EVEN TELL ANYONE WHY.
I'M SORRY.

I'M LATE, I KNOW I'M REALLY SORRY
WE'VE ALREADY GOT CUSTOMERS, HURRY AND GET DRESSED.
YOU'RE THE ONE PULLING DOUBLE-DUTY TO COVER FOR HIM!
YOU DON'T HAVE TO APOLOGIZE, ERI-CHAN!
YEAH. SORRY.
DID THE RESEARCH MEETING GO WELL?
YOUR DAD'S WORKING THE NIGHT SHIFT TONIGHT, RIGHT?
I'LL MAKE SOME DINNER FOR WHEN YOU GET BACK.
I DON'T MIND, AS LONG AS IT HELPS YOU IMPROVE.

WHAT'S SO IMPORTANT THAT YOU HAVE TO PUT HER THROUGH ALL THIS?
IT'S NOT WHAT YOU THINK
GOODNIGHT, DEAR! SEE YOU LATER!
GOOD NIGHT, EVERYONE!
HOW'D YOU LIKE TO *REALLY* WORK HERE, INSTEAD OF THIS PART-TIME CRAP?
AYUMI

I'M SORRY...
BUT I NEED TO DO THINGS MY WAY FOR A LITTLE WHILE LONGER


bubble
bubble

MMM...
NOT BAD NOT BAD AT ALL

HEY AYUM-
RRRRRRRR
OH HELLO, SIR. I'M JUST-
YEAH, YEAH SORRY I AIN'T AYUMI
NN?
HE AT WORK?

IT'S NOT... AYUMI-KUN'S TRYING TO HELP HIS MOTHER!
BUT THE BEST HE CAN DO IS A PART-TIME GIG AT SOME DIVE OF A RESTAURANT?
AFTER ALL THE SHIT I WENT THROUGH TO MAKE 'EM GO TO HIGH SCHOOL, HE DROPS OUT... YA'D THINK HE'D AT LEAST GET A REAL JOB
AND WHAT'S HE DONE FOR HER, HUH?!
IF HE HADN'T BEEN BORN, MY WIFE WOULDN'T BE SICK LIKE SHE IS!
IT'S ALL HIS DAMN FAULT!

BYE!
SEE YOU TOMORROW, SHION!

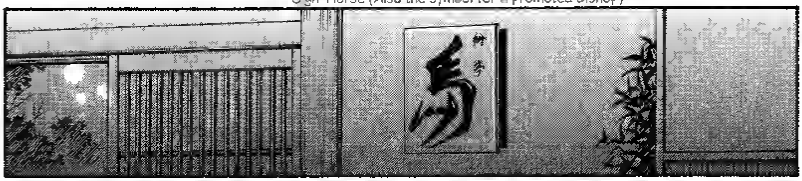
HELLO!

HI SHION-CHAN.

REMEMBER ME? I'M KOBAYASHI, FROM DIGITELL-FONE

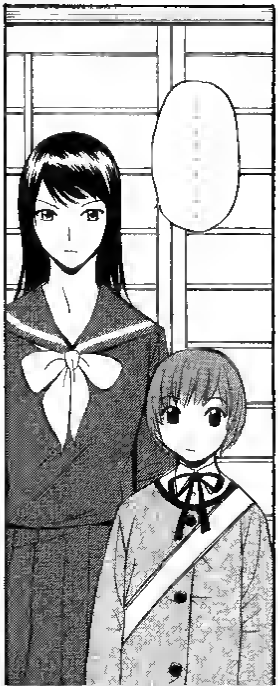
A FRIEND OF KOBAYASHI-SAN'S
WANTED THE TWO OF US TO TUTOR HIM
I'M TERRIBLY SORRY TO SPRING THIS ON YOU, BUT HE WAS QUITE INSISTENT.
THE ASSOCIATION'S ALL RIGHT WITH IT.
AND I WENT AHEAD AND LET YOUR PARENTS KNOW WHERE YOU'D BE.
Thank you.
BY THE WAY, SHION-CHAN...

Sign: Horse (Also the symbol for a promoted Bishop)



IS THIS YOUR FIRST TIME IN ONE OF THESE HIGH-CLASS FIVE-STAR RESTAURANTS?
LOOK
LOOK
tremble
YES! I'm so nervous!
tremble
HAHAHA... RELAX, YASUOKA-SAN RELAX.
WHO IS THIS PERSON, KOBAYASHI-SAN?
A YOUNG MAN - THE PRESIDENT OF A COMPANY THAT DEALS MOSTLY IN BUYING OUT LENDING FIRMS AND IT BUSINESSES... OR SOMETHING ALONG THOSE LINES.
HE CLAIMS TO HAVE PLAYED SHOGI A GREAT DEAL WHEN HE WAS A BOY.

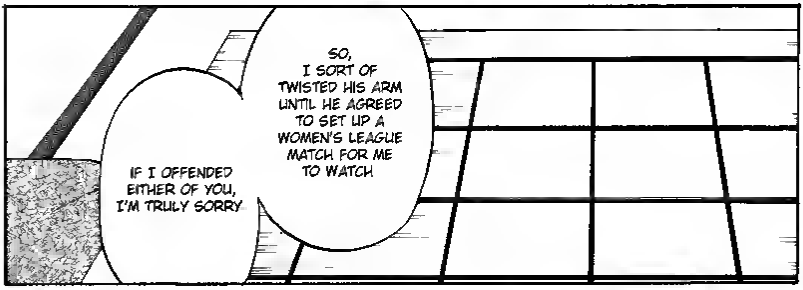
HEY THERE
NIKAIDOU-SAN, YASUOKA-SAN
GLAD YOU COULD MAKE IT.

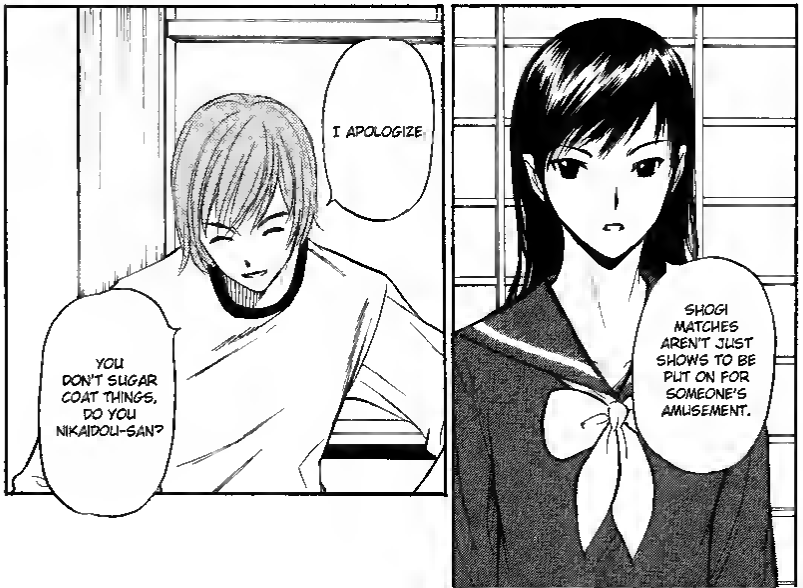


WHY DON'T YOU GO AHEAD AND HAVE A SEAT AT THE BOARD.

THIS ISN'T EXACTLY WHAT WE DISCUSSED, IS IT?
I BELIEVE YOU SAID WE WERE GOING TO TUTOR SOMEONE,
NOT PLAY ANY ACTUAL MATCHES.
SHE'S A SHARP ONE.

THE TRUTH IS, HE'S TRYING TO RECRUIT ME AS A SPONSOR.
I ASKED KOBAYASHI-SAN TO DRIVE YOU HERE
BECAUSE I FELT I REALLY NEEDED TO MEET THE BOTH OF YOU.


IF I OFFENDED EITHER OF YOU, I'M TRULY SORRY
SO, I SORT OF TWISTED HIS ARM UNTIL HE AGREED TO SET UP A WOMEN'S LEAGUE MATCH FOR ME TO WATCH


I APOLOGIZE
YOU DON'T SUGAR COAT THINGS, DO YOU NIKAIDOU-SAN?
SHOGI MATCHES AREN'T JUST SHOWS TO BE PUT ON FOR SOMEONE'S AMUSEMENT.

I WONDER.
IS THAT WHAT MY BROTHER LIKES ABOUT YOU?
?!
ALLOW ME TO INTRODUCE
HANI-MEIJIN'S YOUNGER BROTHER, HANI SATORU-SAN
YO.
YOU DON'T SEEM TOO SHOCKED, YASUOKA-SAN.

HEHEH... EVERYONE ALWAYS SAYS WE'RE COMPLETE OPPOSITES...
BUT I SUPPOSE THERE'S NO DECEIVING THE EYES OF A TRUE KISHI.
You two are a lot alike. You have the same air about you.

WHAT WAS THAT ABOUT YOU SPONSORING US?
UMM...

YES.
I THINK YOU'LL BOTH FIND THE PREMISE AN INTERESTING ONE.
WHA-... A NEW TOURNAMENT?
MY COMPANY ALONE CAN'T HANDLE THE BURDEN OF SETTING UP THIS NEW TOURNAMENT.
SO I THOUGHT TO MYSELF, "PERHAPS SATORU-SAN WOULD BE INTERESTED IN BACKING US."

A COMPLETELY OPEN TOURNAMENT...
PROS, AMATEURS, MEN, AND WOMEN...
ALL COMPETING FOR A PRIZE OF 50 MILLION YEN!

A-ANYONE CAN ENTER?!

I SEE YOU'RE LEVELHEADED AND REALISTIC TOO, NIKAIDOU-SAN.
I MENTIONED THE SAME THING TO KOBAYASHI-SAN THE OTHER DAY.
THE SHOGI WORLD OPERATES A CERTAIN WAY - THERE ARE FAR TOO MANY HURDLES TO CLEAR.
I REALLY DON'T THINK A TOURNAMENT LIKE THAT COULD EVER HAPPEN.
I ASKED, "ARE THERE ACTUALLY WOMEN'S LEAGUE PLAYERS WHO COULD PROVIDE A DECENT CHALLENGE IN THAT KIND OF SITUATION?"
TO BE EXACT.
WHICH IS WHY I FELT HE NEEDED TO SEE A GAME IN PERSON.
I SINCERELY APOLOGIZE FOR NOT BEING MORE UPFRONT ABOUT THIS.
I TEND TO KEEP THINGS SECRET UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE.

MONEY ISN'T THE ISSUE HERE-
THE 100,000 YEN ENTRY FEE SOUND GOOD?
THE WINNER OF THE MATCH WILL BE ENTERED IN THE TOURNAMENT FOR FREE, INSTEAD OF HAVING TO PAY
AND I'VE PREPARED A LITTLE SOMETHING AS BOTH A THANK-YOU PRESENT AND A MOTIVATOR.
SHION-CHAN?!
WHAT DO YOU SAY,
NIKAIDOU-SAN?

HOW WILL WE KEEP TRACK OF TIME?

?
ANY OBJECTIONS TO A ONE HOUR "DRAWDOWN" MATCH?
I BROUGHT A CHESS CLOCK ALONG, BUT I DON'T KNOW HOW TO DO BYOU-YOMI

That sounds really cool!
IN A "DRAWDOWN" MATCH, YOU ABSOLUTELY HAVE TO WIN WITHIN THE TIME LIMIT.
WE'LL EACH BE GIVEN AN HOUR, AND YOU ONLY USE UP YOUR TIME DURING YOUR TURN.
THERE'S NO SUDDEN DEATH OR BYO-YOMI - NO MATTER HOW GOOD OF A POSITION YOU'RE IN
OR HOW CLOSE YOU ARE TO VICTORY, IF YOU USE UP YOUR HOUR FIRST, YOU LOSE
YOU'RE SURE IT'S NOT TOO HARSH A GAME, NIKAIDOU-SAN? I KNOW YOU COME FROM A MORE TRADITIONAL SCHOOL
Piece Pawn
FOUR PAWNS... I'M WHITE
NO, I DON'T MIND AT ALL.
I HAD TO FACE HER SOMETIME!

Shion's King Fin

SHION NO OU 2 END

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- HISSHOUBURAIKEN

PROOFREADER
- JOHNNY MNEMONIC

QUALITY CHECKER
- LUISALIRIO84

EDITOR
- XIPHIAS

TRANSLATOR NOTES:

PAGE 201:
TENZARU - TEMPURA AND SOBA NOODLES,
CURRY-DON - CURRY AND BEEF OVER
A BOWL OF RICE.

PAGE 211:
THEY'RE IN A "RYOUTEI",
A...WELL, A HIGH-CLASS,
FIVE-STAR JAPANESE RESTAURANT.

PAGE 217:
50 MILLION YEN = ABOUT $460,000

PAGE 220:
BYOU-YOMI:
THE SHOGI AND GO WORD FOR TIMEKEEPING,
USED MOSTLY WHEN THE SUDDEN-DEATH
PERIOD COMES UP.

PAGE 220:
KIRE-MAKE, LITERALLY,
"TIME RUNS OUT,
YOU LOSE".

Editor Notes:

Thanks for reading Shion no Ou

This time I decided to edit the sfx
I hope it doesn't bother you ~_~

Merry Christmas Everyone and
a Happy New Year

Next Chapter - The battle
between Shion and Saori!
January 14th!